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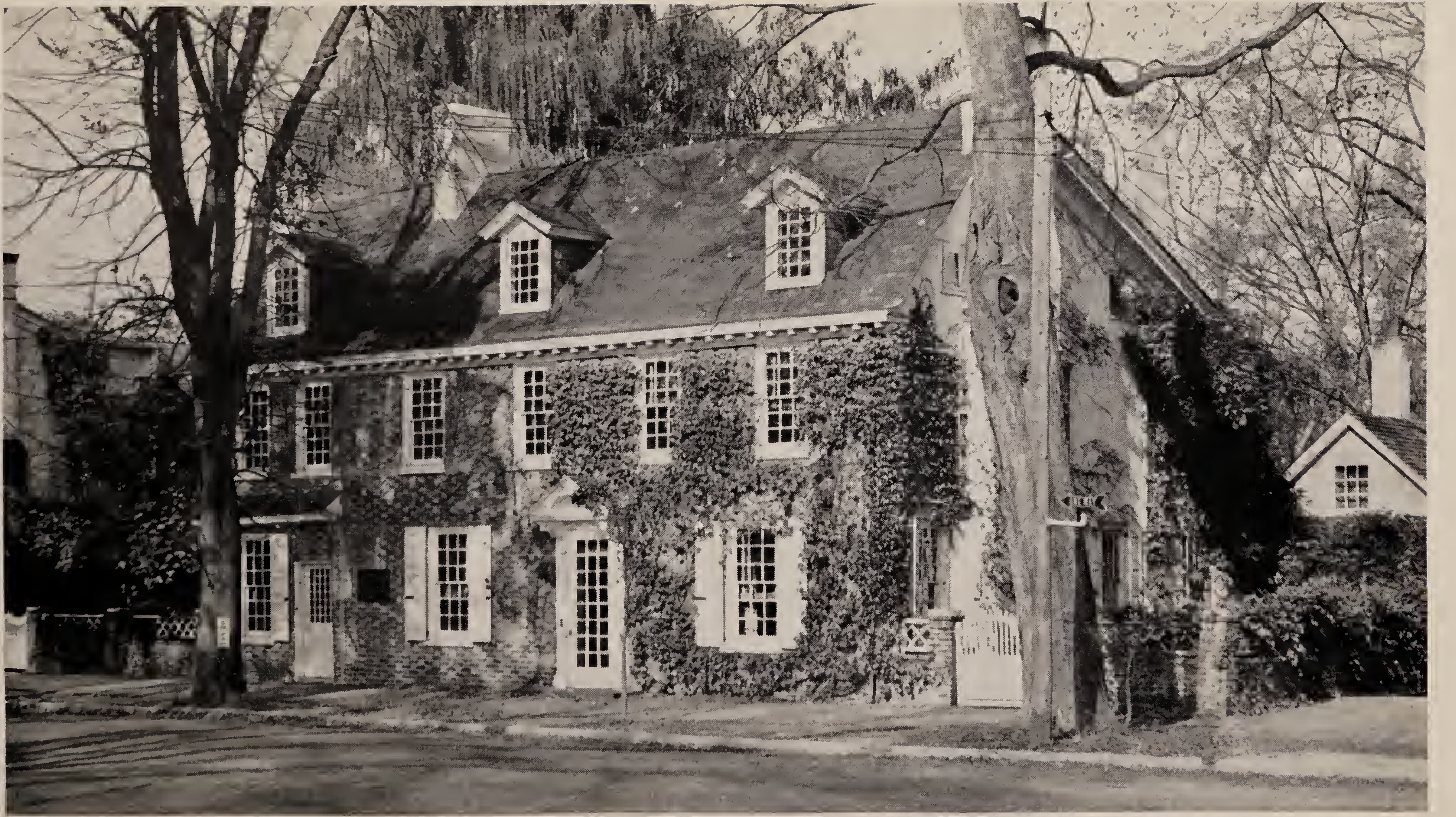

Ridgely House on Dover Green

A CALENDAR OF

RIDGELY FAMILY

LETTERS 1742 - 1899

in the

DELAWARE STATE ARCHIVES

Edited and Compiled by
Leon deValinger, Jr., State Archivist
and
Virginia E. Shaw, Classifier

Family Data Supplied By Mrs. Henry Ridgely

Volume I

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A.	Autograph
c.	circa
cm.	centimeter
Cy.	copy
D.	Document
Df.	Draft
L.	Letter
N.	Note
n.d.	no date
n.p.	no place
p. or pp.	page or pages
pub.	published
S.	Signed or Signature
U.	Unsigned

Dedicated to Ann Ridgely, daughter of
Henry Moore Ridgely, and wife of
Charles I. duPont.

Because of her devotion to her family she rescued and preserved a mass of letters which she found in the garret of the old Ridgely House on the Dover Green.

FOREWORD

It is indeed rare that one is privileged to indulge in a retrospect of an American upper-class family for a period of one hundred and fifty-seven years. Such an opportunity was afforded when the unusual collection of Ridgely family papers was presented to the Public Archives Commission of Delaware in 1942. The initial gift by Mrs. William C. Peyton and her sisters and brother, Mrs. James Andrews, Miss Amy duPont and Mr. Eugene duPont, was acquired through the intercession of Mrs. Henry Ridgely of Dover, Delaware. Later Mrs. Ridgely added to the Collection documents which had accumulated through the years in the old Ridgely House facing historic Dover Green. She also aided considerably during the period of editing by supplying facts of family history and clarifying genealogical relationships.

The initial gift of Ridgely documents amounted to 1677 letters and personal papers. The latter comprised family accounts, legal papers, bits of poetry, copies of literary gems of the period, newspaper clippings, obituary notices, and even locks of hair carefully wrapped in paper. Mrs. Henry Ridgely's subsequent gifts to the Collection have raised the total of letters and personal papers to 4,023 documents.

The papers in the Ridgely Collection cover the period 1742 to as recent as 1899. Thus all branches of the Ridgely family in Delaware, from the founder, Nicholas Ridgely, to all but the last three generations, are represented in these letters. Upon examining the Collection as a whole it becomes evident that the early members of the family carefully preserved all of their correspondence. The later fate of these records is described graphically in a letter from Mrs. Charles I. (Ann Ridgely) duPont to a friend about 1890. Part of her letter states:

> "My father was Mr. Dulany's friend, legal adviser, and executor. I am truly sorry the DuLany papers, were not better cared for by my father's widow. If she had only given them to me I would have delighted in preserving them for the DuLany family. I think I mentioned that at my father's death his widow was left a life estate in the house, and all it contained; she outlived him forty years. The office

> was rented during that length of years the papers were left in an uncovered box, a prey to the elements and the rats, in an old loft, which after a time leaked. At my step-mother's death I directed them to be gathered up and sent in bags to me, to rescue what I could of them, as my brothers had not the patience to do it. I received eight three-bushel bags of them, a hetrogeneous mass of old parchment deeds in a wretched state of decay, legal papers, social letters of the DuLany's, their business papers of the sales of iron and tobacco. Social, business and legal papers of the Ridgelys even to modern times. Social, and business letters of Governor Comegys, (my step-mother's father) &c. I read a very few, but they were all engrossing, and those which were not in a state of decay I saved. There were four bags of DuLany papers. If they could have been preserved, what a history of those early times they would have given. I threw the Ridgely papers in a large empty trunk and have yet to look over them. I doubt whether I will find anything of the genealogy of the family as the oldest papers were in the possession of Chancellor Ridgely, and were destroyed at his death."

To alleviate the shock one receives upon reading of the destruction of these quantities of family papers, rich in social, historical, economic and political data of their time, it should be pointed out that 36 of the Dulany papers, 30 of the Hamilton family records, and a considerable number of the earlier Ridgely papers are still extant. Furthermore, it should be added that Mrs. duPont did much more toward preserving the Ridgely papers than just throwing them "in a large empty trunk", as she states. She protected them from further damage, carefully grouped related correspondence and added many bits of identifying information to the endorsements on the back of many of the papers. In the years to come scholars and students of the history of the Middle Colonies will be increasingly thankful to Mrs. duPont, to her grandchildren, the donors of the collection, and to Mrs. Henry Ridgely who gave the additional papers to supplement those originally presented. It is everlastingly to the credit of their cultural appreciation and foresight that this valuable collection of early American records reposes safely in the vaults of the State Archives of Delaware at Dover.

The significance of this collection should not be considered lightly. These papers are not only the written record of a family for a period of about one hundred and fifty years, neither are they of local interest only to Dover or to the State of Delaware. The wealth of historical, social, economic, political and other folkway data the letters contain makes them a new source of information for interpreting the thoughts and behaviorism of our ancestors. In this collection is reflected the course of phases of the life of the Middle Colonies, later known as the Middle Atlantic States. To understand the history of this area is to understand the development and growth of our Country. During much of the eighteenth century Philadelphia was the political, financial, commercial, industrial, and cultural center of the North American Continent. The correspondence of members of the Ridgely family with their relatives and friends is woven inextricably with the life and progress of that still great city. Among the Philadelphia correspondents of the Ridgelys were: Richard Peters, Benjamin Chew, Provost and Mrs. William Smith, Thomas Smith, David James Dove, Benjamin and Abraham Wynkoop, Mrs. Elizabeth Graeme Ferguson, Mrs. Williamina (widow of Gen. John) Cadwalader, Thomas Cadwalader, Mrs. Phineas Bond and son, Miss Rebecca Bond, Mr. and Mrs. John Travis, Mrs. Abigail Hamilton, son Andrew and daughter Rebecca. All correspondence was not, however, limited to Philadelphia, for there were friends and relatives in Wilmington and other Delaware towns; New York; Baltimore and Chestertown, Maryland; Lancaster and Carlisle, Pennsylvania; Newport, Rhode Island; Washington and other places along the eastern seaboard. Seldom has an opportunity been presented to examine so many diversified facets of American family life and achievement over so long a period.

It was the full realization of the wealth of historical material contained in this collection which prompted my suggestion that it should be published in order that research workers and scholars throughout the Country might be apprised of the contents of the collection. It was indeed gratifying that this suggestion was accepted by Mrs. James Andrews, Miss Amy duPont, Mrs. Henry Ridgely, Mr. Eugene duPont and Mr. Bernard Peyton who subscribed a fund to defray all costs of publication of a calendar of abstracts of the letters to be issued under the imprint of the Public Archives Commission. The size of the Collection is such that the *Calendar* will be published in three volumes.

The calendar was the form of publication selected as being the one which would convey the most information regarding the contents of this Collection. It is recognized that it would be more desirable to publish the letters in full but, for a collection as large as this, the cost would have been prohibitive. The abstracts which have been prepared for each individual letter are intended to serve as a guide to the contents of the letters, but in numerous cases quotations from the letters have been included to preserve the verbiage of the period and to impart the exact meaning of the writer. Usually the calendared letters of an individual include only the letters to and from that person, but in the preparation of this calendar we were confronted with the problem of devising an orderly system for calendarizing the letters to and from many individuals. As far as we were able to ascertain, such a calendar including letters of so many individuals has not been undertaken previously. It should also be explained that the Dulany and Hamilton papers have not been included in this calendar, and as far as the papers of the Ridgely family are concerned, only the letters have been calendarized. The plan devised for presenting the abstracts of the letters in an orderly manner and with continuity was to devote an individual chapter to the male head of the family in each generation and an additional one for his children. Within these chapters all letters to or from the subject of the chapter are presented in chronological order and include the correspondence of the wife as well as that of their children during minority. The separate chapters designated for the children contain the exchange of correspondence among themselves and with friends or relatives, but not with their parents. The exceptions to these general rules were in the instances of Ann Moore Ridgely, Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely, Henry Moore Ridgely and the Rev. Nicholas Ridgely, each of whom was allotted a separate chapter because of the quantity and importance of their correspondence. In these instances the correspondence of the men began with letters dated nearest their twenty-first birthday while that of Ann Moore Ridgely begins with the first letter following her marriage and includes the correspondence of her husband. We have attempted to identify all incomplete names of persons mentioned in the correspondence. When persons are referred to in the abstracts by their first name only, they invariably refer to members of the Ridgely family; e. g. "Mary says she will write." In the event of a hiatus in a name it is indicated by . . . . The size of the documents has been shown in centimeters and the first dimension is the width followed by the length. As some of the letters in this calendar were written before the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in Delaware and the other English colonies in America in 1752, it should be pointed out that in computing dates the adjustment of eleven additional days between the old Augustine calendar and the new calendar should be allowed. In the editing of these letters, however, we have presented the dates as they have appeared in them and have not indicated whether they were new style or old style. In the headings of the letters the names, Dover and Philadelphia, refer to Dover, Delaware and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, respectively, unless otherwise stated.

In the preparation of this calendar we were aided by the Hon. Richard S. Rodney of New Castle, Delaware, who provided photostat copies of Ridgely letters owned by him. Miss Ann Morris, Librarian of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania; Mrs. J. A. Johnston, Assistant Secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia; Mr. Carroll Frey, Editor, Penn Life Insurance Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Dr. William D. Hoyt, Jr., Assistant Director, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland; and Mr. Nicholas B. Wainwright, Assistant Librarian, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, very generously supplied us with information during the preparation of this calendar. I also wish to express my appreciation to our staff members, Miss Virginia E. Shaw, Mrs. Elsie Thomas, Mrs. Priscilla W. Fleming, Mrs. George F. Hitchcock, Jr., and Mrs. Herbert E. Abbott, who have worked so faithfully to produce this publication.

Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware
December, 1947

Leon deValinger, Jr.
State Archivist of Delaware

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

Many able historians have written of the settling of the American Colonies, describing their growth during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and their later development as states in the early days of the young Republic. Too often these historians have had access to only court records, civil proceedings, charters and similar public records. As a consequence, the results of their labors have often been impersonal and have had the tendency to emphasize the constitutional or legal aspects of early American life rather than conveying to their readers a clear conception of the thoughts, manners, and customs of the times. The historians, however, were blameless as they used the only sources then available. Family correspondence and diaries which usually describe social habits, the economy of living, modes of travel, facilities for education and aspects of religion have been utilized more in recent years. Many of the families whose names were familiar along the Atlantic seaboard in early days have moved westward with succeeding decades but others remained on the land seated by their ancestors in colonial times and in too few cases their family papers have been preserved. A reading of these early papers permits the people of the colonial period and of the formative years of the Republic to speak for themselves and clarifies impressions of those years which are unknown or had become obscured.

It was the realization of the value they would have in contributing toward a better understanding of the social customs of Delaware and the neighboring Middle Atlantic states which influenced the descendants of the Ridgely family of Delaware to deposit their records in the Delaware State Archives at Dover and to finance this publication. An account of how this collection of correspondence and family papers has survived the vicissitudes of many years, together with an explanation of the system of arrangement for publication, is described in the foreword of this volume.

The progenitor of the Delaware branch of the Ridgely family in America was Colonel Henry Ridgely who came from Devonshire, England to Maryland in 1659 with his wife Elizabeth (Howard) and three servants. Elizabeth did not long survive the rigors of the voyage to the New World or the severity of pioneer life. Colonel Ridgely soon acquired lands in excess of six thousand acres and lived on "Wardridge", his plantation close to Anne Arundel Town, afterwards named Annapolis. Within the next decade Colonel Ridgely married Sarah . . ., the mother of his children. After the death of his second wife he married Mary, the widow of Mareen Duvall, who survived him and afterwards married the Rev. Jacob Henderson.

The life of Colonel Ridgely as well as that of his family was closely allied with that of his good friend and neighbor, Nicholas Greenberry. He was born in England in 1627 and came to Maryland in 1674 on board the ship, *Constant Friendship,* with his wife, two children, and three servants. These two men were associated in many of the affairs of the Province as well as in the social and political life of Anne Arundel County. Both of them held high offices of trust. Henry Ridgely was a justice of the peace, member of the Maryland Assembly, member of the Governor's council, major and later colonel in command of the militia of his county. He and Colonel Greenberry were among the commissioners appointed to survey and manage the building of the Court House in Anne Arundel Town. Colonel Greenberry was a justice of the peace, senior qualified member of the Governor's Council 1692, Keeper of the Great Seal 1693-94, President of the Council and Acting Governor of the Province of Maryland from October, 1693 to May, 1694. He was also a commissioner appointed to lay out an area of one hundred acres into lots and streets for the town which in 1695 became Annapolis. Both men adhered to the Church of England and took an active part in the proceedings of St. Anne's Parish.

The Ridgely estate, which embraced the tracts, "Wardridge", "Catton", "Mary's Delight", "Hogg Neck", "Ridgely's Lot" and others were not very distant from the Greenberry Estate called "Greenberry Point." From such a close association as these two families enjoyed, it is not surprising that they were further united by marriage. Colonel Ridgely's son, Henry, married Katharine Greenberry and Rachel Ridgely in turn married Charles Greenberry. Thus were allied by friendship and marriage two of the prominent families of Anne Arundel County.

In 1696 Colonel Ridgely petitioned the Provincial Council to terminate his service as a magistrate by reason of his ". . . being in years, and having lately received a fall from his horse, whereby he is disabled of the use of his right arm, which renders him incapable to make use of his pen, beside the great disquietude which by business is created to him." Two years later in 1698 he asked the Governor and Council to discharge him from his commission as colonel of Anne Arundel County militia because of ". . . being aged and infirm . . ." The petition was refused but when he presented a similar one in 1699 the request was granted. Despite his acknowledged age and infirmity Colonel Ridgely lived until April 2, 1710 and was buried near Annapolis, the city he helped to found.

The eldest child of Colonel Henry Ridgely and his wife, Sarah, was Henry Jr. He was born, presumably at "Wardridge", October 3, 1669. Nothing is known of his childhood but it may be assumed that, as his father was an educated man, the son received the best training available. In 1689, when he was twenty years old, he and Katharine Greenberry, the daughter of Colonel Nicholas Greenberry, were married. They lived and reared their children at "Wardridge", the home plantation which had, no doubt, been given to him by his father.

His occupation was probably that of attending to his plantation and assisting his father with the supervision of his estate. Nothing has been found in the public records to indicate that he emulated his father by taking an active part in public life. Such activities as he engaged in came to an untimely end when he died March 19, 1699 when only thirty years old. His will provided that his wife Katharine, during her lifetime, should have his home plantation and 200 acres adjoining. Some time prior to 1703 the widow became the second wife of John Howard, by whom there was one child, Katharine Howard. Other provisions in the will of Henry Ridgely, Jr., left to his son Nicholas the 275 acres he then held and 272 acres on the north east side of the great branch of the Patuxent River. His son Charles was to have 150 acres when of age, and his daughter Ann had already been given her tract, one half of "Hunting Quarter." Daughter Elizabeth received one half of a 300 acre tract at Chester at the head of Morgan's Creek, and son Henry received the dwelling plantation and 200 acres of "Warren's Ridge", left to his mother, as well as 282 acres of "Ridgely's Beginning", on the north side of Rogue Harbor Branch, Patuxent River. For many years the blue flagstone tombstone embellished with skull and cross-bones enclosed in a wreath of laurel leaves and with the inscription: "Here lyeth the Body of Mr. Henry Ridgely who was borne ye 3rd day of Oct. 1669 and departed this life on ye 19th day of March 1699" stood at "Wardridge" in the old family burying plot. Later when this property passed out of the family this tombstone was removed to the yard of old St. Anne's Church in Annapolis. No letters of Colonel Henry or his son are included in this collection as they both lived prior to the establishment of the Ridgely family in Delaware.

It may be well to explain at this point that there are several branches of the Ridgely family. There is the branch of the family directly descended from Colonel Henry Ridgely which is the one represented in this collection of letters. There are the descendants of Colonel Ridgely's brother William and another family of the same name which traces descent from the Honorable Robert Ridgely, who settled at St. Inigoes, St. Mary's County, about 1635. From him are descended the Ridgelys of "Hampton" near Towson, Maryland.. There is no intention to present a detailed genealogical account of the Delaware Ridgelys but, for a better understanding of the persons mentioned in these letters, it is thought advisable to give some intimation of family relationships.

The Delaware branch of the Ridgely family begins with Nicholas,[1] the eldest son of Henry Ridgely, Jr., and Katharine Greenberry. He was named after his maternal grandfather, Colonel Nicholas Greenberry. An unknown fact and an intriguing one regarding Nicholas Ridgely is where or from whom he obtained his excellent legal education which was later to serve him so well in the several important public offices he held in Kent County, Delaware. For a time it was thought that he may have studied under or served a legal clerkship with Daniel Dulany of Annapolis, especially as some Dulany family papers were found with his correspondence. This supposition might have been correct if it were not for the fact that Daniel Dulany was only nine years older than Nicholas and did not become established in Annapolis until about 1721.[2] It was about two years later that Nicholas Ridgely married a second time and left Annapolis. His second wife was Ann (French) Gordon, the widow of James Gordon, a merchant of Kent County, Delaware, and the daughter of Robert French, a merchant of New Castle, Delaware. Therefore, it was probably shortly after 1723 that Nicholas Ridgely first came to the Three Lower Counties on the Delaware. Although his family had held office under the Maryland government, he became thoroughly in sympathy with the government of Pennsylvania and in 1735 signed a petition to the Crown advocating the authority of the Penns in abrogation of the rights of Lord Baltimore over the territory embracing the Three Lower Counties.

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[1] A fuller biographical account of Nicholas Ridgely is given at the beginning of Chapter I.

A glimpse of Kent County and Dover, which has been the seat of the Delaware Ridgelys since Nicholas settled there, will afford a better understanding of the manners and customs revealed in some of the letters. The Delaware Counties, which Penn subsequently named New Castle, Kent and Sussex upon Delaware, were settled and rather well established nearly fifty years before William Penn obtained his charter for the Province of Pennsylvania in 1681. As the Delaware Counties were necessary for the protection of Penn's province, they were deeded to him by the Duke of York in 1682. The following year they were formally annexed to the Province as territories by the Act of Union. Because of unrest and rising resentment the Three Lower Counties were permitted, in 1704, to have their own general assembly which met at New Castle. During the third, fourth and fifth decades of the eighteenth century the preponderance of Kent County's population was stretched along about thirty miles of the level farm and marsh land bordering the Delaware Bay and along the creeks feeding into it. From just beyond Dover an almost unbroken forest extended to the still-disputed boundary of Maryland. Scattered through this wooded area were small clearings which later emerged as fertile farms or flourishing settlements. Although the King's Highway, beginning at Philadelphia and extending on down the Delmarva Peninsula, was well established by this time, traveling was usually by shallop or a similar type vessel from the numerous creeks to all parts of the Atlantic seaboard. This mode of travel and conveyance was preferred as it was more comfortable, cheaper and in most cases quicker. Furthermore, it was almost impossible to transport any considerable quantity of merchandise overland. The correspondence between Nicholas Ridgely and his son Charles during the years 1751-1754, while the young man was at school in Philadelphia, affords interesting glimpses of traveling conditions at this time. Through the medium of Andrew Doz' shallop, the father and son seem, for these early times, to be in almost constant communication with each other and a steady supply of commodities was being sent down to Dover from Philadelphia. Captain Doz usually took charge of the letters between Nicholas and his son, for in those days there was no general postal service, although one was projected a few years later to facilitate communications during the French and Indian War.

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[2] "Hon. Daniel Dulany, 1685-1753", by Richard H. Spencer, *Maryland Historical Magazine,* March 1918, vol. XIII, #1, pp. 20-28.

By 1743 the population of Kent County, as indicated in the assessment lists, was 1132 taxables. These were in most cases heads of families and plantation owners holding slaves, who had been attracted to this region, despite its deserved reputation for having an unhealthful climate. The residents were largely of English extraction, though names of Scotch, Irish, French and Dutch origin appeared among them. Many of the families had, like the Ridgelys, migrated to Kent County, from the neighboring counties of Maryland, Virginia or elsewhere in the Delaware River Valley. Among such a population and at this time it was conclusive that the predominant religious denomination was the Church of England. The Presbyterians were the next numerous, followed by the Quakers, (under the influence of William Penn) and a very few Roman Catholics. Church of England missionaries sent over by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (S. P. G.) attest the desperate isolation and poverty of those living on the marshes and in the forest, who were almost completely cut off from civilization because they could not afford horses. Among the more fortunately located and prosperous, on the other hand, life was past the pioneer stage, having become relatively comfortable and accompanied by a corresponding cultural advance.

Something of the life and thought in Kent County and Dover during the period 1740-1760, when the first generation of the Ridgely family became established here, may be guaged by the laws enacted. In 1741 the general assembly placed a bounty on wolves. This act obviously applied only to settlements in the marsh and forest areas and not to Dover as it was a town of some size, having been laid out in 1717 to conform with an order issued by Penn in 1683.[3] Encouragement for killing squirrels, during the same general period, points toward attempts to aid agriculture. Frequent thefts of standing timber, and wanton destruction of the forests and marshy pastures by the careless practice of the earlier Swedish custom of burning to effect a clearing, are reflected in the legal efforts toward conservation. Social conditions and social conscience now had reached the stage where attention was directed toward provision for the poor and toward a humane bankruptcy law, rather than remanding these unfortunates to the debtors prison. Horsestealing, dueling, spreading false news and defamation became illegal. During the period of Nicholas Ridgely's residence in Delaware King George's War (1744-48) was going on and the French and Indian War (1754-63) began. Because of the fear of attacks from the enemy, the Lower Counties enacted laws which organized the militia, established drill days, defined the alarm signal, and designated the place of rendezvous in the event of an attack. Despite these protective measures French privateers harassed Lewes and even advanced as far up the Delaware River as Liston's plantation, in the lower part of New Castle County, during July and September of 1747. Other significant legislation passed in this period was that regulating the inns and taverns with regard to the prices of liquors and to the conduct to be tolerated on the premises. Toward the close of Nicholas Ridgely's lifetime, in and following 1750, there were acts for the construction of workhouses, for establishing a loan office, for the regulation of servants and slaves, including manumission requirements. There were also acts to facilitate commerce and industry by providing for the erection of mills, as well as the construction and maintenance of roads. The economy of Kent County and that of the other two Delaware counties was plainly maturing.

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[3] The original manuscript document signed by the Proprietor is preserved in the Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.

Dover at this time was obviously changing from a pioneer settlement to a well-established county seat. Log or frame huts and similarly primitive structures were being displaced by more substantial ones of brick and the town reflected the orderliness of such a community. Its location had from the beginning kept it from extreme isolation, for it lay close to the center both of its own county and of the Delaware area as a whole. Through St. Jones' Creek, narrow and winding but deep enough to admit most shallops of the day to the town's dock, it had relatively easy access to the traffic of the Delaware River and Bay between Philadelphia and Lewes. It likewise lay on the only overland route between these same two points, and on the road through the forest and across the Choptank River to Maryland. When Nicholas Ridgely brought his family to the Dover region in or shortly before 1740, the town was closely linked with the life of the whole Middle Atlantic area. A plot[4] of it made in that year shows it as a rectangle one hundred by two hundred perches, the shorter measurement parelleling the Creek and King's Highway, the long dimension running west from the waterfront. Its northern and southern boundaries were North and South Streets, with Water Street and an unnamed right-of-way between them. The north-south streets marked on the plot were Front, East, King, High, Queen and West, but there is no indication that the first two or the last were developed sections of the colonial settlement. Its functional center was the Court House Square, a pleasant Green, laid out by Penn's order,astride King's Highway near the northern limits of the town, with a court house and jail, two taverns and several private homes facing upon it. The present Christ Church edifice, usable but not fully completed, had occupied Church Square on Water Street for six years when the Ridgely family came to the immediate vicinity, while Meeting House Square, the third of the public plots shown on the 1740 plan, held a Presbyterian Meeting replaced by another on about the same site in 1790. The more centrally located of the lots laid out for private use were already dotted with houses,. dooryards, gardens and a few shops, providing for a population roughly estimated at between four and five hundred.

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[4] Kent Deed Book R^1, folio 231, Recorder of Deeds Office, Dover, Del., certified copy (1768) of a draught made by Thos. Noxon, Surveyor, in March 1740/41.

Small as it was, Dover was undoubtedly the cultural center of Kent County at this time. Its courts brought the magistrates and lawyers there for at least a portion of each year, while its central location made it the usual residence of the Episcopal and Presbyterian clergymen assigned to the region and of many of the physicians who served it. From these circumstances the town had as residents or frequent visitors, in Nicholas Ridgely's day, a majority of the educated men of the county. Merchants, of whom the village had several, must also be listed among those whose occupations required them to be widely-traveled and well versed in practical affairs if not always possessed of a good formal education. Some of the more prosperous families were acquiring private libraries. A few titles from the Ridgely collection provide some idea of their choice. Nicholas Ridgely authorized his son to spend the considerable sum of £8 for a set of *Universal Histories* for the family, while the youth himself owned *Pomfrets' Poems, Young Man's Companion* and *Locke on Education* when he was still a member of his father's household. Christ Church parish, about 1746, owned approximately twenty-three volumes, predominantly for the missionary's use but probably available to laymen with a taste for doctrinal reading. These volumes were for the most part tracts and sermons which had supposedly been sent from England by the S. P. G. Very little data is available regarding schools or schoolmasters in Dover at this early period, but there is abundant proof that gentlemen saw carefully to the education of their sons and sometimes of their daughters. Among Nicholas Ridgely's personal papers is a bill for £16:2:0 for two and one-half year's schooling of a "son and two daughters", payable to James Orr, who was probably the person of that name who died about 1748. There is some indication that the "son" mentioned in this document was John Vining, a stepson, rather than Charles Ridgely, the only son of Nicholas to survive infancy. The secondary education Nicholas Ridgely chose for Charles, concerning which the correspondence provides much detail, illustrates the best opportunities open to well-to-do Dover youths of that generation. The boy was sent at twelve years of age to The Academy in Philadelphia to be placed in the care of the eminent schoolmaster David James Dove, where his major textbook needs, over the next three years, were the Latin reader, *Selectae Profanis,* on which three generations of Ridgely boys were trained, and the works of Vergil, Ovid, Horace, Quintus Curtius, and other Roman authors, though reading, writing, arithmetic and French found a place in his course. Mr. Ridgely at one time wrote to his son that he might select "a middle-priced dictionary", presumably Latin-English, at three pounds. Book prices appear to have been uniformly high when compared with tuition rates, for in 1753 two pounds fifteen shillings paid for two quarter's tuition and "the winter's fireing."

The churches had a prominent place in the cultural life of Dover, for both Episcopal and Presbyterian clergy were as a rule well-educated men whose position gave them prestige and whose duties required them to come in contact with parishioners of every social level. Each denomination provided the community with able religious leaders. The affairs of Christ Church are, however, of particular interest in the story of the Ridgely family, since its earliest Delaware members were active churchmen, and through successive generations all but a few individuals have remained adherents of the Episcopal faith. This congregation dates from 1705, when the first of an irregular succession of S. P. G. missionaries arrived to promote the welfare of the Church of England families in Kent County. Dover, as the point most convenient to all parts of the large parish, appears to have been the headquarters of each of the missionaries in turn. Prior to Nicholas Ridgely's residence in the neighborhood the Rev. Thomas Crawford had served 1705-1711 and, after an interruption of more than twenty years, had been succeeded by the Rev. George Frazier in 1733. In 1740, the year in which Mr. Ridgely first appears on tax lists in the Dover area, the Rev. Arthur Ussher was in charge, followed by the Rev. Mr. Morris, 1745-46, the Rev. Thomas Bluett 1746-48, and the Rev. Hugh Neill 1750-c.1758. The fortunes of the Church fluctuated widely during the years when Nicholas Ridgely was a member, for its pulpit was sometimes vacant except for irregular visits from the overworked missionaries stationed in the adjoining counties, once was unsatisfactorily filled, and at other times was served by men of acknowledged worth and leadership. At such fortunate periods the clergyman might hope to preach in Dover before two hundred or more listeners of a pleasant Sunday. Religious records of the period, however, make it plain that church affiliations of a considerable portion of the population were quite unstable, so that the congregation most ably supplied in any given year was the one which flourished.

Dover also was the chief business center for Kent County. Semi-annual fairs were authorized, and presumably held there, from a very early date. A trade in produce flourished in its streets prior to the passage of an Assembly bill in 1741 for the establishment and regulation of a market and the laying out of a market square. Severe penalties were stipulated in this act for trading elsewhere than at the prescribed location on market days, or for offering for sale underweight, low-grade or unsanitary foods. The first section of the provision was obviously ignored, for ten years later Nicholas Ridgely and two colleagues were directed to lay out a market place "in or near that part of the town . . . commonly called the court-house square" and to supervise the erection of a convenient market house thereon. The reason for this act was that, especially during court terms,

> "pedlars and petty chapmen . . . set up stalls and booths in the town of Dover . . . which for want of proper regulations, do not only too much incumber some parts of the town but also often produce frays and disorders."

In and before Nicholas Ridgely's time permanently established merchants, as well as these transient peddlers, supplied a portion of the requirements of the town and its neighborhood. The more prosperous families, however, continued to shop in Philadelphia and their purchases were shipped down by shallop. Craftsmen, too, were a part of the community before 1740, but they settled in increasing numbers in ensuing years. Wills probated during the years 1740-1755 identify twelve persons as having followed the trades of tailor, carpenter, tanner, cordwainer, weaver, blacksmith, or millwright. Though several of them did not live within the town limits of Dover, most of them did. A check of corresponding records for the succeeding fifteen years, when twenty-nine individuals who followed thirteen trades are identified, affords an interesting comparison.

Christ Church, Dover, Delaware

Where Nicholas Ridgely dwelt during his first years in Dover is uncertain, but from 1743 to 1748/49 he rented a house from Robert Willcocks, who was assessed in adjoining Murderkill Hundred. In July 1748 he bought a tract bordering on the west boundary of Dover Town, which he soon considered his "home plantation." This purchase formed the nucleus of the farm since known as "Eden Hill." It is related that he wrote a friend that his wife had suggested the name, he supposed "because it had a pleasant sound." On his newly acquired property he immediately erected a brick house to which he moved his family about January 1748/49. No description of the homestead in his day is known, but the old house, with broad lanes and great trees, which still preserve an authentic eighteenth century atmosphere, also suggests its appearance when it was new despite the alterations farm management and family needs have dictated during the intervening two centuries. The approach from Dover lies through grassy "Cedar Lane", close to a mile in length and very wide between the boles of its ancient cedars, catalpas, pin-oaks, horsechestnuts, willows and maples. At the point where another broad lane running in from the north crosses "Cedar Lane" stands the house itself, with a wide lawn in front and garden at the south side. Its sixty-seven foot frontage faces eastward, and its wide doorway looks directly down the lane toward Dover. The structure, of bricks which records show were burned on the premises, has two full stories with a generous attic under a wide, sturdy gable at the southern end. The central section has a slightly lower roof, and indeed a lower level throughout than the southern one. At the extreme north, and known to be of later construction, is a two-story flat-roofed office and office chamber, with a twelve-foot frontage and an entrance at the east. The house is deep as well as long, and has huge chimneys to serve its many fireplaces. On the north wall, with the ten-foot kitchen chimney as its inner face, projects a Dutch oven.

The interior arrangement is pleasing. The main entrance, in the south wing, gives access to a wide hall running the full thirty-five foot depth of the building to an open stairway at the back. To the east are connecting drawing rooms, also running the full depth of the house, with twin fireplaces whose original woodwork was replaced in the nineteenth century by dark marble mantles and the trim then fashionable. To the right, on a slightly lower level, is a long, low-ceiled dining room with its windows facing "Cedar Lane", and a kitchen still structurally of the eighteenth century though somewhat modernized in superficial appearance. The second floor holds four bedrooms in the south wing, with three more above the dining room and kitchen.

The grounds have, of course, been modernized far more than the house ,though some of the plantings along the lanes seem of sufficient age to have been set out within a short time after the house was built. The flower garden to the south of the drawing-rooms, too, is old. Letters show that Nicholas Ridgely's daughter-in-law, Ann (Moore) Ridgely, cherished it and obtained plants for it from relatives in Philadelphia as well as by the usual exchange among neighborhood flower-lovers. It is possible that the fine old box, which she undoubtedly tended, may have been set out under the supervision of one of the two Mary Ridgelys who preceded her as mistress of the household. Orchards, which now produce the farm's major crops, have been a feature of the property ever since it came into the hands of the Ridgely family, though in the earlier days, grains were commercially the most important produce. The farm buildings are, of necessity, relatively new. The oldest of them, a huge barn, dates from Nicholas' great grandson's time, but the packing and grading houses, cow barn and milk cooling room are of the twentieth century.

The precise number of individuals who occupied "Eden Hill" when the house was new is not clear from the letters, but seventeen persons closely allied by blood or marriage made up the family group at about that time. Nicholas and Mary Ridgely themselves, their son Charles and little daughters Sarah and Elizabeth of course lived there. Mr. Ridgely's daughter Mary, a child of his second wife, was with almost equal certainty a member of this household until her marriage. So also was Mary Vining, Mrs. Ridgely's daughter by a previous marriage. Two daughters of Mr. Ridgely's first wife, with their children and husbands, James Gorrell and John Vining, the latter being Mrs. Ridgely's son, were intimates at "Eden Hill", though it is improbable that any of them were residents there over any extended period.

Attention has already been called to the high rate of illness and fatality prevalent in the region in the middle eighteenth century, but that statement becomes more significant when one reads the letters describing the illnesses of this comparatively small circle of relatives. Malaria, rheumatism, various infectious fevers, tuberculosis, other respiratory diseases, and unidentified complaints produced a constant series of permanent or temporary invalids, while five of the seventeen members of the family died within these few years. Only one of them, Nicholas Ridgely himself, was elderly. One wishes for more detail than is found regarding the obviously primitive medical attention the sick received even in families able to command the best that was available. One interesting fact the letters show in this connection is the practice of writing for advice to a physician at a distance, sometimes in consultation, sometimes as the only resort.

Some aspects of family life are rather sharply illumined in the papers belonging to these early years, while others are almost ignored. There is surprisingly little mention of food in the letters of this period, in all probability because the farm produced nearly all its occupants required. The single exception was butter, ordered from Philadelphia. A winter's supply was fifty-three pounds at seven pence per pound in a year when it was "dear and scarce." Purchases of apple, apricot, filbert and cherry trees or grafts show that a variety of tree crops was being cultivated, but we are given no idea of what vegetables had been successfully introduced. The collection does, however, contain an intriguing little manuscript booklet, dating from about 1750, giving recipes for liqueurs, brandies, wines, beer, ale and mum, as well as for coffee, tea, sage tea and chocolate. The directions for coffee are rather startling:

> "To make Coffee
>
> "Take a Suficient quantity of faire wattor and boyle it over a gentile fire but Rather sett it before the fire—in a Convenient tin pott for it beginning to boyle putt to Every pint & half of wattor, 2 oz. of best Coffee powd'r and lett boyle for 1/4 part of an hour and it is fitt for use after it has stood for a small tyme to settle, and if you want to make milk Coffey putt to every pint of wattor a quart of milk."

The letters provide much fuller details about the clothing worn by the family at "Eden Hill" than about their food. Though common fabrics were woven and made up on the premises, more luxurious items were ordered from the city. Ten-yard pieces of callemanco, black for Mrs. Ridgely and one of the daughters, red for another, were sought. Red damask shoes, and black leather ones "with white rands, made neat of Soft fine Leather", were also on the shopping lists. Jackets, breeches, ruffled shirts, stockings, stock buckles, and a tunic for Charles were frequent topics of his correspondence with his father. Mrs. Ridgely worried lest her "jumps", which she required as much for warmth as to serve as a corset, should not be boned in time to be delivered before winter weather interrupted communication with the city.

Like most of the planters in Kent County, Nicholas Ridgely owned slaves. Three allusions illustrate his probably rather representative attitude toward them. He instructed his son to look out for a "likely young Negro Fellow or Lad" exactly as he directed him to purchase other needed equipment. He reports "My Man Robin, your Mother's Mare and my Dog Lyon all Dyed this summer, which are losses," but during Robin's illness he expressed affectionate concern for him. Again he writes of allowing Negro Tom to go to Philadelphia "chiefly on his own account." Existence of free white workmen as well as of slaves is attested by the fact that several wills of "laborers" were probated in Kent County at this period. Clerical work, on the other hand, was a task for which one hired employes. To secure a satisfactory man of this sort, "a Sober orderly quiet person that writes a midling good hand", Mr. Ridgely was willing to offer "accomodations", twelve pounds per year, and "future advantage." He first inquired in Philadelphia, but found a promising applicant in or near Dover.

One cannot fail to note constant references to Philadelphia[5] in accounts of all phases of living in Kent County, and more particularly in Dover. "The City" was important to residents of all the Lower Counties as their highest seat of government next to London itself. It was, moreover, becoming a thoroughly cosmopolitan center in its own right in the decades 1740-55. In the former year its population, though only about 13,000, was expanding rapidly. Among the number were men and women from a wide variety of national, religious and cultural backgrounds, attracted by the Quaker tradition of tolerance and by the natural advantages of the site. Philadelphia, from its establishment, had been a trading center. By 1740 its merchants carried on an extensive business with the rest of the Atlantic seaboard, the West Indies and England, with a few of them trying occasional ventures to continental ports. Artisans, many of them highly skilled, were numerous. The city counted among its residents distinguished teachers, lawyers, clergymen, physicians and officials educated at the leading universities of Europe. Scientific investigation, religious and political discussion, and awakening interest in art, music and literature provided challenges for every type of intellect. Books, pamphlets and periodicals fed discussion in every field of inquiry or controversy. An Academy was opened in 1751 to prepare young gentlemen for professional studies without the dangerous and expensive trip to Europe, and to offer sound basic instruction in English and mathematics for students planning to become merchants or tradesmen. It appeared, however, if the experiences of Nicholas Ridgely's son, one of its earliest students, can be taken as typical that the actual curriculum was almost purely classical despite its advertised emphasis upon practical training. Most of these varied aspects of the cosmopolitan, vitally alive young capital are reflected in miniature in the Ridgely correspondence.

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[5] See Carl & Jessica Bridenbaugh, *Rebels and Gentlemen*, Philadelphia, 1942, for a detailed account of Philadelphia c. 1740-1775.

During Nicholas Ridgely's generation colonial life throughout the area dominated by Philadelphia had been active and full of change, as its widely scattered little communities became firmly organized politically and sufficiently prosperous for the more fortunate inhabitants to have a comfortable existence. Political rivalries were lively as aristocratic and democratic influences, sectional interests and not infrequently religious organizations clashed over the formulation of public policy. Economic and social, as well as governmental patterns, were being evolved. While England remained "home" to the great majority of colonial residents, actual leadership in government, business, church and education was coming by slow degrees into the hands of the native born and native trained. These conditions were typical of the little county-seat of Dover, which Mr. Ridgely had selected as the home of his mature years, as they were of many others dotted through the Delaware Valley. As Nicholas Ridgely drew his will in his sixtieth year, he must have expected for his son, secure in the prospect of a fine professional education and a good farm, and for the daughters to whom he left valuable properties, quiet, prosperous lives of increasing material comfort, but free of radical changes.

Charles Greenberry Ridgely is the dominant figure in this *Calendar* between 1755 and 1785. His relatively short life, less than forty-eight years, was not spectacular but both his own personality and the period to which he belonged made it a significant one. Though no records of his early childhood have been handed down, we have a rather full account of his adolescent years in the intimate letters he wrote to his father from school in Philadelphia. He told him of his courses, his textbooks, the clothing he needed, the errands the family had commissioned him to do in the city, some of the details of student life, and occasionally his personal hopes and problems. His father's death, when Charles was barely sixteen, terminated this informative series just at the time the young man was entering upon his medical apprenticeship. Lack of a complete account of this period of his life is particularly unfortunate, for he was a student of the distinguished practitioner, Dr. Phineas Bond, whose own studies had been completed under the noted Dr. Kearsley in Philadelphia, and at several European centers. Dr. Bond was one of a small group of gifted physicians who had raised the practice and teaching of his profession to the highest standards then reached on the American continent. Dr. Charles Ridgely was undoubtedly among the earlier physicians to acquire, entirely in America, a medical education comparable to that offered abroad. From about the age of twenty he was a resident of Dover, practicing his profession there with success and in his turn training some of the most eminent Delaware physicians of the next generation, among them James Tilton and Edward Miller. In public affairs he was active both as an office-holder and as a citizen. He was twice married, first, in 1761, to Mary Wynkoop and after her death to Ann Moore in 1774. His correspondence, particularly his letters to his friend Rev. Charles Inglis, reveals him as a devoted member of the Anglican communion in Kent County, conscientious, scholarly and, like so many of his well-educated contemporaries, a man of wide interests.[6]

The years of his early manhood were relatively tranquil ones. The topics discussed in his correspondence are those of casual interest to relatives and intimates, most of them business or professional men of Kent County or Philadelphia. Among their number were members of the Vining and Wynkoop families, closely allied by marriage to the Ridgelys. Others were the Dickinsons, Rodneys and Loockermans, the Rev. Samuel Magaw and Dr. Matthew Wilson. Benjamin Chew, in a letter, after discussing the whereabouts of some legal papers, closed with the remark that he hoped "your Turkeys are fat about Town for I expect as usual to make some of you pay for my Christmas dinner." Purchases of phials, tea and cheese in the city, talk of political appointments, and reference to the children of the various correspondents, including the four sons born to Dr. and Mrs. Ridgely before 1770, suggest the daily lives of the Ridgely family and their friends. Dr. Ridgely's letters to and from the Rev. Charles Inglis, who left Dover at the close of 1765 to accept the rectorship of historic Old Trinity in New York City, are in a far more intimate vein than any of the others he wrote or received. To him the doctor confided his hopes and fears for the Church, commented upon the affairs of his wife, sisters, children and mutual Dover friends, and later unburdened his grief and bewilderment after his first wife's death.

Two bits of local news from these letters provide almost the only data the collection yields about the living arrangements of the Ridgely family during the period of Dr. Ridgely's first marriage. In October, 1766 he wrote to Mr. Inglis:

> "Mr. Thos. Parke was this day buried, who made a Journey into Maryland and after a few days Illness dyed on his way home. This is a loss to his poor Family, irreparable."

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[6] See also biographical sketches in Wm. Huffington, *Delaware Register and Farmers Magazine,* Dover, Del., 1838, Vol. I, pp. 184-188 and at the beginning of Chapter II of this *Calendar.*

Then on March 17, 1767 he reported:

> "I am at this time moving into Mr. Parke's House which I have taken; this will free me of much Trouble, I hope, tho' it will also deprive me of many advantages my plantation offered."

The "plantation" was a portion of the property now known as "Eden Hill", which had passed to Charles Ridgely upon his mother's death in 1761, during the first year of his marriage. Subsequent events show that living within the village of Dover must have proved as convenient as he had anticipated, for within a short time the doctor bought the house which is still the property of his descendants.

"Mr. Parke's House" was as central a location as Dr. Ridgely could have found in Dover. It stood on the northeast side of the Court House Square, convenient to the church, the homes of other professional men of the village, and to the highway, courthouse, taverns and all places where men would stop in search of a physician. From the street the house looks in 1948 substantially as it did in 1728, when its first section was completed, although twelve feet have been added to its length at the west end. When Charles Ridgely bought it, there were but four rooms, two each on the first and second floors, exclusive of an attic that made almost a full third story. Its overall measurements, as calculated by architects, were thirty-seven and two-thirds feet by twenty and two-thirds feet, with the long axis toward the street, which gives some indication of the size of the rooms. A large chimney at either end provided ventilation for fireplaces in each original room and the attic. A winding enclosed stairway at the northwest corner of the 1728 house permitted access to the bedrooms above. It is probable that the first floor of the addition at the west end had been built prior to Dr. Ridgely's ownership. The house, with or without the office, was evidently too small for the needs of his family, which by 1770 comprised himself, his wife and sons Nicholas, Charles, Jr., Abraham and John. While he owned the dwelling, and probably not long after its purchase, he more than doubled its size by building another series of rooms at the rear on each floor, making the house almost square. Two additional chimneys provided for the increased heating needs and a wide, open staircase led to the second floor. In the early nineteenth century a second story and attic were built above the office. During the twentieth century a garden and flower room, with the addition of a kitchen wing, brought the house to its present proportions. The material of the south wall, that facing the Green, is English statute brick of 1728, set in Flemish bond, with raked joints. The unusually low ceilings of rooms on both floors and the four large chimneys are additional features of architectural interest. It is noteworthy that from 1767 each member of the Ridgely line who figured prominently in the *Calendar* had been at some time a resident or visitor in this house. To the greater number of them it had meant home.

During the years immediately before and after Dr. Ridgely purchased the house on the Green the pattern of Kent County life showed no abrupt change, but the trends that were already evident developed at an accelerated pace. This is illustrated by a summary of the legislation applicable to the county passed by the General Assembly between 1760 and 1775. For the most part it revised existing statutes in the light of practical experience with their operation, though a few enactments were wholly new. The rules of court, administration of estates, elections, and even the bounty on squirrels were altered, some of them more than once. The colony's fiscal affairs became increasingly complicated as its population and trade grew and as the effects of the colonial wars were felt. This condition was reflected in enactments concerning the loan office, the fees and salaries of public officials, and the administration of about £6000 refunded to the Three Lower Counties from the British Treasury for expenses contracted by the local government in the course of the French and Indian War. The reimbursement indicates that the Delaware Counties carried their full responsibility during this conflict. Emission of bills of credit was authorized to facilitate commerce when periodic drains on specie for balancing foreign accounts jeopardized it. The increased use of paper money generally was reflected in a law of 1773 setting penalties for counterfeiting the bills of other colonies. Provisions were enacted to make establishment of land titles easier and less expensive. There was less social legislation than in the previous period, though some problems in that field were considered. Slavery, never an acute issue in Delaware, caused uneasiness on two accounts within the fifteen years just before the Revolution. Severe penalties were set for seizing or holding as a slave a person entitled to freedom, and particularly for selling such a person out of the colony. On the other hand, manumission proceedings were tightened by requiring a bond from all who set slaves free. More stringent regulations were established for control of free Negroes. Efforts were made, too, to control "idleness and drunkenness" among both white and colored populations, and to suppress lotteries. Administration of the poor laws was thoroughly revised. Despite the political crisis that was radically affecting the relations of all the colonies with each other and with Great Britain, this period in the economic and social development of Kent County was one more of adjustment than of innovation.

Not all the important facets of life along the upper Delaware Bay are suggested by this brief sketch of the colony's laws. Living standards among the more well-to-do families continued to improve, as a result of many factors, during Charles Ridgely's early manhood as they had done during his youth. One was undoubtedly the type of education gentlemen's sons were receiving. Though a training as thorough as that the young physician obtained was not common, there were others among his contemporaries who did have comparable preparation for a profession or for business. As they returned to Kent County to practice medicine or law, engage in commerce, or manage their plantations, they brought to the neighborhood a wider knowledge of urban thought and comfort, and sometimes townbred wives to preside over their homes. Others remained in the city but kept alive their ties with Kent County friends. Improving travel facilities, too, contributed both directly and indirectly to this cultural advance. Stage coaches were unknown in the vicinity in Nicholas Ridgely's time, but about 1770 it appears to have been possible to go by stage from New York to Cape Charles, Virginia, passing through Dover via the King's Highway. One of Charles Ridgely's sisters received an invitation to spend a short time in New York at about the same time, and she did go to Elk Ridge, Maryland, near Baltimore. In winter, as Rev. Charles Inglis wrote with deep regret, the trip from New York to Dover could still be undertaken only at the hazard of one's life.

The population of the county, too, was growing steadily despite the unfortunate climate. In 1762 the S. P. G. missionary, Rev. Charles Inglis, estimated the residents at about 7000 whites. By 1776 the usually accepted figure was 9000 whites. In both years there was a considerable, though much smaller, Negro population. All these circumstances indicate a normal, if relatively rapid, development from the situation that existed when the Ridgely family moved to the Lower Counties on Delaware. They do not, however, imply that poverty, isolation and ignorance had vanished among the yeomen in lonely swamp or forest districts. Furthermore, they indicate almost no progress at all in the conquest of epidemic and chronic illness with their heavy toll of life and energy among residents of every social level. This problem, indeed, could not be solved with eighteenth century knowledge of medicine and sanitation.

Religious life in the community, as revealed by the family's letters and available church records, did not change radically in the period under consideration. Certain new factors did, however, develop. Methodism was introduced into the county a few years before the outbreak of the Revolution. Its rapid spread belongs to the war and early national years. The long-standing Anglican-Presbyterian rivalry grew more bitter, and its political overtones became more evident as the quarrel with the Crown intensified. Although records are too incomplete for a dogmatic statement, there seems a strong probability that Quaker influence declined somewhat because of public reaction against the sect's pacifism during the colonial wars when most residents felt the colony was in immediate danger.

The town of Dover, in the year just prior to the Revolution, could still be described in much the terms of twenty years earlier. Tax lists show that the 104 Dover Hundred taxables of 1743 had increased by 1760 to 133, while in 1775 the list showed but 128. These figures are suggestive only, for town and hundred limits were not identical; certain known residents of the village, like Charles Ridgely, were taxed in adjoining hundreds where their farms lay, and there is no indication of the size family each taxpayer represented. The chief significant change in village life is the appearance of more merchants and craftsmen than heretofore. Public records show that persons of the following occupations died in Kent County between 1760 and 1775: six cordwainers (shoemakers), two tailors, four carpenters, three weavers, two coopers, four blacksmiths, two tanners, a hatter, a cabinetmaker, a miller, a chaisemaker, a chairmaker, and a saddler. Not all of these, of course, were Dover residents, though the greater number were. The law of 1772, forbidding owners to allow swine to run at large within the town limits, is a vivid reminder, none the less, of the distinctly rural character of the community at that date. An interesting sidelight gleaned from tax-lists is the fact that in 1775 Kent County had only nine taxables rated at £100 or over; Dr. Charles Ridgely rated at £108, was one of them.

Philadelphia continued to be, as it had been in the two decades previously considered, an important factor in the lives of the more prosperous Kent County residents. It was still the political capital to which they looked in all public business other than local affairs, the mart of their commerce, the center from which came their books, newspapers, and contacts with intercolonial and European affairs. The city's[7] rapid growth, 13,000 in 1740, 22,000 in 1760, 40,000 in 1775, had made it probably the second largest in the British Empire, surpassed only by London itself. Legal toleration of all religions, excellent commercial opportunities and expanding domestic manufactures continued to attract residents of diverse national origins, religious and political preference and economic status. It remained the center of medical instruction and experiment in North America. The Academy and affiliated University of Pennsylvania, both founded on a broader concept of education than was usual in America, flourished. Art, music, drama and literature found in the city both audiences and performers. Seething political issues fed the presses of the pamphleteers. Printers were frequently authors and publishers of books as well, while booksellers offered wide assortments of both domestic and imported works. Philadelphia, throughout this period, was the undisputed cultural capital of the colonies. Some historians consider it the most cosmopolitan of any city on the continent.

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[7] See Carl & Jessica Bridenbaugh, *op. cit.*, pp. 3-4.

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The colonial wars which extended from the later years of Nicholas Ridgely's lifetime and into his son's early manhood had an important impact upon Kent County life. A militia battalion was organized in 1756, with John Vining as colonel, for service in the French and Indian War. Supplies as well as men were levied from the Lower Counties. Although there was no fighting nearer than the then frontiers of Pennsylvania, the inhabitants of the seaboard regions, feeling themselves in potential danger, organized for home defense even more extensively than they had done in the 1740's when actual raids occurred. Here, as in other colonial areas not a battleground, the most important effects of the war came after its close, in indignant resistance to the Stamp Act and the various alternatives to it by which Parliament attempted to make the colonies contribute to the depleted royal treasury. With a nucleus of trained officers, experienced militia, and practice in civil cooperation, men undoubtedly felt in a far stronger position to lodge protests of increasing vehemence. Strangely, such letters as we have from Dr. Charles Ridgely, and to him from correspondents in Philadelphia and the Lower Counties between 1765-1775 are silent on all political matters except purely local ones. It is through a New Yorker's eyes that one sees the Revolution approach. The first communication Dr. Ridgely received from Rev. Charles Inglis after the latter's removal to New York, dated December 26, 1765, contains the paragraph quoted below. It expresses the attitude of a thoughtful man who later became an outstanding Tory.

> "We have had no Disturbance since I came here; tho' some were on the point of doing a most injudicious act had not the timely Interposition of the Magistrates prevented them. There are several who call themselves *Sons of Liberty,* and are the most active and zealous in opposing the Stamp Act. These had formed a Resolution of seizing the Stamp-papers which are lodged in the Town House, and send them Home to England, directed to Mr. Grenville. This was condemned by all the cool, judicious part of the citizens. They thought it would be a great Insult on the King and Parliament, and might render ineffectual every Measure hitherto taken to have the Stamp Act repealed. Several Ships have lately arrived here from

> England. They bring no news but that the populace in England in general approved of our opposition to the Stamp Act. Jamaica has submitted to it without any struggle."

As the years passed Mr. Inglis told of business stagnation, social unrest and conflict between the governor and the populace over fiscal policies in New York, and his distress at news from England, "as there are some Incendiaries both there and here." Gradually the cleric became convinced that the colonial protest movement was dominated by the "Presbyterian and Independent Influence", that it was shaping into a threat to the Church of England, to the principle of monarchy and to political as well as religious freedom, and that New Englanders merited no sympathy at the hands of the other colonists. The last of these communications dates from 1774.

Though a corresponding intensity of feeling must have been developing along the Delaware during the decade preceding the war, evidence of it appears suddenly in the letters of this collection written from Kent County. At the beginning of 1775 Dr. Ridgely was chairman of the Kent County Committee of Correspondence and also a member of the Council of Safety. An angry division of opinion had arisen over the method and extent of opposition to be offered the home government, although Independence was not yet under open discussion. Many, indeed, who were at this time favoring resistance later refused to support armed rebellion. A letter Dr. Ridgely wrote in his official capacity on March 2, 1775 to the Committee's counterpart in Philadelphia may be of some interest as an example of similar correspondence throughout the colonies. The city group had attempted unsuccessfully to discover for the Kent County Committee the author of a letter published in the *Pennsylvania Ledger*, asserting[8] that the residents of Kent County were loyal to the King and repented the fiery protests of the Continental Congress. The Kent County chairman thanked the Philadelphians for their efforts which, he believed, would deter others from similar irresponsible public statements, and continued:

> ". . . Indeed it is to be expected in a free Government like ours, where all men have been used to think

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[8] Harold B. Hancock, *The Delaware Loyalists,* pub. by Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Del., 1940, p. 7.

> and to speak what they please, that even the exploded Doctrines of passive Obedience and non-resistance . . . may meet with some Advocates. But we think we can with great Confidence say the People here are animated with a noble Zeal in the general Cause . . .
>
> ". . . Our Forefathers protected the Press with a jealous Eye, considering every attack upon it a Prelude to an Attack upon the Constitution. We who are, or hope we are, animated by the same generous sentiments should be sorry to see the Press shut to fair political Discussion. We think the great and glorious Cause which engages the present attention of all America cannot suffer by it. Besides we look upon it as the indubitable Right of every English Subject to deliver his Opinion to the Public upon every constitutional Question. When this ceases to be the case, Liberty will be but a name; Freedom an empty Phantom.
>
> "This part of our Letter is in answer to a Letter from Mr. Jabez Maud Fisher to our Chairman, dated 21st Feb. [1775] and received by him on the 25th, . . .; in which he puts much Stress on the Freedom of the Press. But we apprehend on this occasion that Liberty has been abused. We would observe that if the Author of the Letter is not capable of 'Calumny and Falsehood' (as he asserts), the Committees of Correspondence and Inspection for Kent County have been guilty of both. . . ."

Dr. Ridgely himself, as a prominent Episcopal layman and a man of known "moderate principles" was in some quarters accused of having written the controversial article. During the ensuing dispute an illiterate letter tells of such charges made against him by a "prisbetaren" and of his enemies' disappointment when Robert Holliday, a Quaker, was identified as the author. Later that summer he was charged with expressing doubts of the colonies' ability to defend themselves against England and of the wisdom of the Continental Congress. He was acquitted before the Committee of Inspection and remained in public life through most of the Revolution, but opponents continued to regard him as a Tory. Since he took the oath of allegiance to the State required in 1776 of delegates to its constitutional convention, it seems improbable that the charges were substantiated by more than difference of opinion. To many contemporary minds, however, his church affiliation and the open Tory sympathies of most of his wife's relatives made him a natural target. His position was, moreover, typical of that of a large segment of the substantial residents in the county.

The war years were active ones in Dover. Troops were enrolled and drilled there, fierce dissention between Whigs, moderates, and outright Tories flared and smoldered constantly. Men like the ardent Rodney brothers and the conservative John Dickinson took part in national affairs while others worked to formulate the new constitution and system of government for the new independent Delaware State. After being forced to flee from New Castle when the British invaded the northern county, the legislature sat at several temporary capitals, finally coming to Dover in May of 1777. Two years later the town, which was the county seat, also became the permanent seat of state government as well. Annual sessions of the legislature, besides necessitating routine public transactions, brought Dover into more intimate contact with representatives of all sections of the State, and, of course, increased its business. The court house where the delegates met and the two taverns where many of them must have lodged faced "The Green" on which the Ridgely mansion stood. Unfortunately, the family correspondence is a virtual blank for the period of the Revolution. The single surviving item is a letter to Mrs. Ridgely from her sister, Mrs. Phineas Bond, which hints at the inflation and the scarcity of the times when she asked in 1779 "What is the price of salt provision among you, or rather is any to be purchased". The same letter, referring to her grief over separation from a son who had fled to England, and to her affection for a son-in-law, John Cadwalader, who was a general in the Pennsylvania Militia and a devoted supporter of Washington, reveals the divided loyalties of families and the tragic situations in which many found themselves.

The hiatus in our information about the affairs of the Ridgely family is not closed until 1784, when the more acute economic and social disturbances produced by the conflict were past, so far as Kent County was concerned. The Ridgely family, by that time, included Dr. Ridgely and his wife, five children born between 1775 and 1784, and three grown sons preparing for careers in law, commerce and medicine. Some of the diverse topics that engaged their attention were the older sons' studies, activities of relatives, culture of strawberries in Maryland, and the advantages of a particular weave of furniture fringe. Dr. Ridgely's warning to his merchant son to be in his lodgings "betimes" when in Philadelphia because the streets were unsafe at night, and his reminder to be always courteous, considerate and adaptable, whether dealing with a slave or with the master of a vessel at sea, open vistas into mercantile life and polite social usage at the close of the eighteenth century. The size of the household is vaguely suggested by a bill of 1781-1784 for making, soling and "patching" footgear for Dr. Ridgely, his three eldest sons, four of his younger children, a white servant, four slaves certainly and by implication either one or two others. The services were valued at just over £38.

Late in the summer of 1785 a note of concern about Dr. Ridgely's health appeared in the correspondence, followed by frantic appeals from his wife to his medical colleagues, and in December by letters of condolence upon his death. Possibly no other lifetime represented in this collection, and certainly none so short, spanned a period of more physical development in Kent County and Dover, or of more profound political change. When he was born, the community where he spent the major portion of his life, and indeed the entire Atlantic seaboard, were showing their first important promise of the economic and cultural possibilities they held. Colonial governments were well established and must have seemed in contemporary eyes secure for generations. When he was buried, at the age of forty-seven, in the Christ Churchyard in Dover the foundations of the modern State of Delaware and of the United States were laid. The American world had crystallized into the recognizable forerunner of twentieth century civilization.

Ann (Moore) Ridgely, who during the final two years of her husband's life had appeared as an increasingly vivid personality in the correspondence, emerged in 1786 as its central figure and so remained for almost a quarter of a century.[9] The preponderance of her papers in the collection accurately represents her indelible influence upon the family both in her own time and in later generations. She was in a legal sense the head of the family, so far as her own children were concerned and through her designation in Dr. Ridgely's will as joint executor and guardian she filled that position, in a measure, for his elder children also.

The Ridgely family story in the years 1785-1810, despite the interest that attaches to Mrs. Ridgely, is by no means the record of one person. Hers was rather the unifying spirit around which eight other sharply defined individuals, each busily engaged in concerns not always shared with the rest, were gathered into a closely knit unit. Since there was a large number of common interests and activities among the group, the political, economic and social pattern their correspondence reveals is relatively constant for Ann (Moore) Ridgely, her children and stepchildren during the greater part of the period under consideration.

For the first time the letters give intimations regarding the personal appearance of some members of the family. Throughout the collection, however, it remains far easier to gain an insight to an individual's personality and character than to judge an appearance. Dr. Charles Ridgely, for example, wrote of Ann Moore just before their marriage: "She is a lady whose good sense, virtues and agreeable manners will, I flatter myself, be a Blessing to myself and my sons." Her stepson Nicholas Ridgely, after an association of thirty-six years, used surprisingly similar terms when he recorded her death in the family Bible: "She had acquired a good Education, was a woman of strong Sense, and was a kind affectionate Mother-in-law [stepmother]." One consequently concludes that her intelligence and her basically kindly nature, rather than exceptional physical beauty, were the characteristics that impressed her intimates. No portrait of her is known, but widely scattered references in the letters imply that she was a brunette of more than average height, probably of slender build and distinguished bearing. Since the younger Ann Ridgely resembled her mother, the following observation, made by Henry M. Ridgely of a friend's bride, is probably applicable to both: "She is a brunette and not *very* pretty, but yet quite a comely fine looking woman, and more like my sister Ann, I think, than any other woman I know." Williamina Ridgely, too, was tall and dark; extremely active and fleet of foot, and, except when ill health made her complexion sallow, she was attractive. No description of Mary Ridgely has been found beyond the statement that she was tall. References to Ann's appearance, other than the one just quoted, relate to her childhood, when she was "very fat" and her mother frequently expressed the hope that her figure would become "genteeler" as she grew older. The family thought Henry M. Ridgely a handsome youth, but their letters tell nothing of his stature or coloring. An adult portrait of him is reproduced as an illustration in Volume II. George Ridgely was, until near the end of his brief life, short and by implication slightly built. In his late teens a relative remarked that he had grown "almost as handsome" as his elder brother.

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[9] A biographical sketch of Mrs. Ann (Moore) Ridgely prefaces Chapter III.

The personal affairs of the Ridgely household during Ann (Moore) Ridgely's lifetime may be summarized in rather brief compass. When her husband died, Mrs. Ridgely was forty-three years of age, while her children ranged from Ann, just under two, to Williamina who was nearly eleven. During the early months of her widowhood Mrs. Ridgely moved to "Eden Hill," which thereafter remained her home. The next fifteen years were busy ones. She skillfully managed "Eden Hill" and the farms left to four of the minor heirs, guided her sons and daughters solicitously and saw that each received a thorough education. Extracts from a few of the many letters that passed between mother and children tell much of Mrs. Ridgely's conception of education as well as of school life at the close of the eighteenth century. On June 18th, 1786 Abraham Ridgely wrote to his stepmother in some detail about a school at Chestertown, Maryland, to which his half-sisters were subsequently sent:

> "I take this opportunity to inform you of a school mistress who has lately come from England to this place, where I think it likely you may have the girls taught everything that they could learn in Philadelphia and at half the expence; and in case of sickness you might hear from them in a few hours. The

> mistress comes with good recommendations and keeps her school in excellent order; several ladies have seen her work and think it very handsome and well done. They can live at Mr. John Anderson's . . . If you would wish them to learn musick or french, we have very good masters of both and in all probability there will soon be a dancing school here. . . ."

The two little girls, nine and eleven, were duly instructed at the spinet and in drawing, painting and dancing, either in Chestertown or in Philadelphia, where both were later sent. By March, 1794 Mrs. Ridgely's sons, Henry and George, had outgrown the school facilities available in Dover and were entered at New Ark Academy, a few miles from Wilmington, Delaware. The quality of the instruction twelve-year-old George had received in English composition is not misrepresented by the following transcript of one of his letters:

> "Newark Oct. 30 1794
>
> Dear Madam
>
> My Brother and myself are both well at Newark take ceare of the dogs and send up for us next Aprial.
>
> I am yours George W. Ridgely"

Henry, at fourteen, though his penmanship and composition were better than his brother's, did not yet write acceptably. The letters do not specifically state the curriculum at Newark when the Ridgely boys attended, but the implication is that it consisted fundamentally of Latin. During the fall of 1794 Mrs. Ridgely made inquiries about the instruction offered at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and received the following information from her kinsman Thomas Smith:

> ". . . I beg leave to state to you that Latin & Greek, Mathematics, with their application to Astronomy, Surveying, Geography etc., natural and moral Philosophy, Logic, etc., are taught at Dickinson College . . . under attentive Professors. The students are accomodated at genteel Boarding Houses with Boarding, Lodging & washing at from £30 to £35 per annum".

The brothers entered this school in 1795 and continued there for nearly three years. Their letters home do not tell much about either student life or curriculum, though now and then one does catch a vivid glimpse of their activities and interests, as in this communication from George in February, 1797:

> "Dear Madam,
>
> I have embraced my pen to answer your letter which I just receaved. You mentioned . . . that there was a word which I did not spell wright & soon found it (it was sleighing). You need not be uneasy about my neglecting my business for the sake of diversion for there is no person in this place who takes less of it. I have not been in a sleigh but once this season and that was the night we acted the Play. . . . It was performed as well as any I ever saw at Philadelphia and I am not the only Person who thinks so. I had on a white satin petticoat and jacket with a long mussilin train spangled and had gold fringe along the bottom and my head was dressed very well. I looked extreamely like a bride in the first four acts and in the last was dressed in black. I had on white satin shoes also in the first acts. Harry, who acted the part of Sciolto, had on a long purple robe and overhals done about with silver lace. . . .
>
> "You said in your letter that my dogs were both well. And what was of more consequence your colts were beautiful and in fine order, but it is not of more consequence to me, for I would not part with my dogs for all the colts that I ever saw. . . ."

Ann Ridgely, youngest of the children, was taught at home longer than her brothers and sisters had been, but the month before her fifteenth birthday she too was sent away to enjoy advantages Dover could not offer. From January until May, 1799 she lived at Mrs. Rowan's "genteel" establishment in Harmony Court, Philadelphia, under the close supervision both of its mistress and her own cousin, Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader. The frequent letters she and her mother exchanged throughout her stay in the city show that a tutor came daily to instruct her in reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar and geography, that Mrs. Rowan and her daughters taught tambouring, embroidery and other fine needlework to the young girls under their care, and that three times a week Ann attended Quisnet's Dancing School next door to her boarding place. During a part of her time in the city, a drawing master also came to give her lessons in drawing and painting.

Mrs. Ridgely handled in characteristic fashion the problem raised by Ann's opposition to part of the course outlined for her. She insisted that her daughter must spend a part of each day mastering what modern educators call the tool subjects. Dancing, she agreed, was worth the attention Ann was giving it but she questioned whether the confining tambouring merited a great deal of time. Then she pointed out the lifetime satisfaction skill with brush and pencil would prove to one who, like Ann, had some native talent, regretted that her own artistic bent had never been encouraged, but left the final choice in this matter with her daughter. In conclusion, she begged her to give "unwearied attention to become amiable in your manner and accomplished in such branches of education as will render you useful in life". This combination of graciousness, personal adjustment and social usefulness was, to her, the goal of secular education. When combined with a sound sense of moral values, it marked the man or woman of worth.

A few words Mrs. Ridgely wrote in 1797 to her sons summarized most of what she wrote to all her children relative to their training for life and the goals she wished them to seek:

> "Do not suppose that my heart is set on seeing my children in exalted stations or abounding in wealth and grandeur—far from it—I have long thought grandeur far from desirable, but you may remember . . . how often I have desired you . . . to get the fourth chapter of Proverbs by heart and to observe it strictly through the whole course of your lives, for certain I am that Wisdom, as mentioned there wd give to your heads an ornament of Grace and a crown of Glory. This is a prize for which everyone may contend, to which all may aspire."

By 1800 the family was grown and soon began to scatter. A few days before the turn of the century George Ridgely had sailed on his first cruise as a midshipman. The following fall, at the age of nineteen, he was lost at sea. Henry, already well advanced in reading law with his half-brother, Nicholas, when George began his naval service, established a household of his own in the old family home on the Green about 1802. Though Williamina ("Willy"), Mary and Ann, whose ages in 1800 were twenty-five, twenty-three and sixteen, continued to live at home for some years longer, the two elder daughters made prolonged visits elsewhere. "Willy" was in Philadelphia for over a year and Mary frequently spent long periods at her brother Henry's home in Dover. After a period of poor health that had caused some concern but no real alarm, the family's youngest member, Ann, died in August, 1805, during a visit to Philadelphia. The next break in the circle at "Eden Hill" came in 1807 through a happier circumstance, Mary Ridgely's marriage to Dr. William Winder Morris, a Dover physician. In April, 1807, only a few months after her sister's marriage, Williamina died very suddenly at a time when her family hoped her previously precarious health had been entirely restored. To her mother, who had cherished this first-born child as a "blessing, a treasure to me beyond description", her loss was almost too deep a grief for even religious faith to reconcile. Writing to her own "dear niece [and] valued friend", Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader, Mrs. Ridgely spoke of Willy's generosity, her preference for giving anonymously, her skill in administering her property, and especially of the deep intimacy that had always existed between mother and daughter. She recalled, too, the anguish she herself had suffered at her husband's death twenty-two years before, a sorrow made bearable only by her trust in God and her responsibility for her five small children, who in time "grew up just such as my heart delighted in beholding; two now are all I have left. But I must not, I dare not, murmur".

Ann (Moore) Ridgely survived her beloved eldest daughter less than three years. This uneventful and inevitably lonely period was further saddened by the loss of a little granddaughter who had been Williamina's namesake, and by an estrangement between the two surviving children, Mary and

Henry. Following some months of failing health, Mrs. Ridgely died December 20, 1810 at "Eden Hill". Throughout Mrs. Ridgely's widowhood the lives of her two[10] stepsons, Nicholas and Abraham, were closely intertwined with those of her own children. Nicholas, who had risen rapidly in the legal profession and from early manhood had taken a prominent part in public affairs, and was made Chancellor of Delaware in 1801, exercised a definite influence in his stepmother's family. Abraham, a less clearly defined figure, was a physician who practiced, successively, in Maryland, and in Dover and Smyrna, Delaware. His wife, Hester (Harris) and daughter Mary W. Ridgely, are also minor figures in the correspondence.

Such, in brief outline, are the private annals of the Ridgely family through the years that marked the formulation and ratification of the Federal Constitution, the presidential terms of Washington, John Adams and Jefferson, and the beginning of Madison's administration. Mrs. Ridgely's eldest son, born during the Revolution and nearly ten years old when Washington was inaugurated, was, when she died, a congressman-elect, who would be called upon during his term to vote on the declaration of the War of 1812. During this nationally eventful quarter century, there were, however, relatively few abrupt changes in life along the Delaware Bay.

Kent County, by 1790, had become a virtually matured community, its lands taken up, its population approaching the total that could be comfortably supported under then-current agricultural and industrial methods. Between the Federal censuses of 1790 and 1810 the county figures rose only from 18,920 to 20,495, accounting for scarcely more than a sixth of the Statewide increase for the twenty years. Extensive immigration had ceased with the preemption of the last of the desirable lands, while economic and social opportunities offered by new communities in the West, and by such nearby cities as Philadelphia and Wilmington, attracted many of those born in Kent County. The correspondence shows evidence of both the westward and urban migrations, with the latter by far the more important factor among families the Ridgelys knew. Even Mrs. Ridgely, early in her widowhood, unsuccessfully sought a farm in the immediate vicinity of Wilmington where her children might enjoy the advantages of both country life and good schools. Had she moved there the list of her neighbors would have included a number of names prominent in Kent County in her husband's or her father-in-law's time. Philadelphia had attracted other old Kent County families like the Chews.

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[10] Charles Ridgely, Jr., had died in 1788.

The economy of the region remained almost completely agricultural. Accounts by travellers refer to a fine grade of wheat as the chief crop, with such other products as oats, flax, buckwheat and potatoes also of importance. All of these appear on Ann Ridgely's farm records. Pork was raised in quantity, and beef to a somewhat lesser extent. The fruit culture begun by Nicholas Ridgely on the family property was continued and extended while Ann (Moore) Ridgely was mistress of "Eden Hill". Pears and peaches began to be mentioned. Strawberries, wild and cultivated, were a specialty of the neighborhood. Letters of this period indicate that a wide variety of vegetables was in use. Those more frequently mentioned were asparagus, peas, string and lima beans, and cauliflower. "Willy" remarked sarcastically, in 1803, that she was not "genteel enough" to care much for either celery or salsify, both recently introduced. Mrs. Ridgely, considered one of the finest farmers in the County, was meticulous in rotating crops, and in guarding her timber. Her letters, however, supply far less specific information than do Dr. James Tilton's "Answers to Queries on the present state of husbandry and agriculture in the Delaware State",[11] the best discussion of this subject known at present.

Industrialization had scarcely begun, although some ships were built along the navigable streams of the county, and local craftsmen were supplying a far larger portion of its residents' needs than had been the case before the Revolution. Householders still wove their own coarser fabrics, and did at home all but the finest grades of dressmaking and tailoring. Food production and preservation were still family industries, but foreign wines and liquers were ordered from Philadelphia, in quantities that are rather startling if one forgets the generous hospitality of all well-to-do homes. A brother of Mrs. Ridgely was "surprised" that she bought cheeses, instead of making them herself as she had done at "Moore Hall" in her girlhood.

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[11] *American Museum,* Philadelphia, Apr. 17, 1789, vol. V, pp. 374-382.

Such a community as Kent County, dependent upon a few staple exports for its income, and upon outside sources for some necessities and nearly all luxuries, supported merchants at almost every convenient trading point. Shallops still plied a busy and profitable trade along all the navigable streams, and appear to have been still the accepted carriers of all bulky merchandise for individuals as well as tradesmen. Kegs of wine and beer, hampers of peaches, large orders of household supplies, invariably traveled by that route between Mrs. Ridgely and her relatives in Philadelphia.

Passenger traffic, however, among the individuals of whom this correspondence treats, had been completely diverted from the river to the stage lines despite the discomfort and occasional danger the overland trip still involved. Fear of finding the drivers "careless or drunken and ill-behaved" is frequently enough expressed to imply some basis in fact. Fords, ferries and bridges, too, offered a hazard clearly reflected in Mrs. Ridgely's concern over the young people when they were traveling. At such times Mrs. Ridgely was probably expressing a widely-held attitude, for her daughter Mary wrote from Wilmington:

> "I was very uneasy the day Nancy left us [for] the stage was so loaded I had no rest about their crossing the [Christina] river until Captain W[hite] pointed them out to me safe on the other side [at Jaquette's ferry]."

Travelers who could used private carriages and "chairs" when this was feasible. Carriages, too, were sometimes hired for long trips. When Mrs. Ridgely was planning, in 1795, to permit her daughters to visit her brother, Thomas William Moore, in Rhode Island, she made inquiries in regard to such a vehicle.

Mail was still carried, to a considerable extent, by travelers. Failure to notify one's neighbors of an intended trip in time for them to prepare whatever letters they might wish to send was, in consequence, a serious breach of courtesy. So also was failure to send a message to a close friend when opportunity offered. Packages small enough to be of no real inconvenience were likewise entrusted to acquaintances going in the desired direction. This private communication was, by 1791, supplemented by a Federal postal service with offices[12] at Duck Creek and Dover, again extended before the close of 1793 to reach Frederica and Milford in the lower part of Kent County. Postage for a letter to Wilmington from any part of Kent County was eight cents and to Philadelphia, ten. Total receipts from Dover for the year ending October 5, 1791, were $15.00 and from Duck Creek, $12.00, which gives some idea of the small volume of mail carried. The western portion of Kent County had no postoffice until somewhat later. From the early years of the decade 1790-1800 the Ridgely correspondence contains increasingly large numbers of postmarked letters; by 1810 nearly all were sent through the mails.

Several new trends in the religious atmosphere of the county appear in the correspondence centering around Ann (Moore) Ridgely. Methodism, which had been introduced into the region shortly before the Revolution, had, by 1790, made many converts, some of them persons of prominence. Friends of the family, and one of its members, Dr. Abraham Ridgely, were among their number. Though exact information is difficult to secure, it appears that Quaker and Presbyterian congregations maintained about the relative importance they had held in the late colonial period. The Episcopal Church, however, did not thrive. The pulpit at Dover was often unsupplied, despite efforts to attract and hold a desirable rector. Churchmen perforce attended the services of other religious sects, and one of the Ridgely daughters, visiting in Philadelphia, not long before the close of the century, wrote of hearing a sermon of "our church" for the first time in several years. The fierce denominationalism of the pre-Revolutionary period seems to have subsided to a very large extent, for attending the meetings of a faith different from one's own was no longer frowned upon. A Quaker speaker filled the courthouse in Dover to the point of discomfort on at least one occasion; at another time Willard Hall, a devout Presbyterian, and Mary Ridgely, an equally ardent Episcopalian, were among a group present at a Methodist gathering.

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[12] Harvey C. Bounds, *A Postal History of Delaware,* Newark, Del., 1938 pp. 16-19.

Politics remained a source of bitter difference, as was natural during a formative period in the nation's history. The years from 1781 to 1787 saw a realignment of parties in Delaware, marked by fierce personal rivalries and by the intense feeling one would expect in the wake of a revolution. Through a conservative young lawyer's eyes, patronage and purely local concerns appeared the chief issues in Kent County while the Federal Constitutional Convention was in session. On August 22, 1787 Nicholas Ridgely expressed his views to his brother Abraham in these words:

> ". . . As to news, you know it is not to be expected from Dover. Our own little concerns seem to have suspended the attention of our Politicians from the grand rational matters that are now in agitation. From the Convention at Philadelphia we most expect either permanence and stability or ruin and misery. Should a tolerable Government be formed, it will be our wisdom to adopt it. Our present establishment is tottering to dissolution and nothing could preserve it for a moment but the expectation of a reformation from the convention. I believe there are a number of men who will, at all events, oppose the measures that may be resolved on, in hopes of catching something in the general scramble that convulsions (and probably civil war) would produce. May God avert the worst of all possible evils! Our ensuing election now claims the attention of the different parties. Plans to assure success each party adopts, probably without any regard to the public weal. Our patriots seem now to think the public good consists in the emoluments that accrue to their own particular friends, without looking any farther. They adopt or reject any measure not because it is good or bad but because it is advantageous or disadvantageous to the parties themselves. This is the state of our politics. I have been much pressed to stand a Candidate for a seat in the Council, and many flattering arguments used to induce me to do so, but thank heaven I know my own interest to[o] well to act so foolishly. My business is increasing and all sides employ without any political objections; but such a step would, I think, inevitably ruin me . . ."

Despite the caution manifested by Mr. Ridgely he did enter partisan politics within a very few months as a successful candidate to the Delaware convention called to consider ratification of the Federal Constitution. Its thirty delegates, ten from each county, were all committed to ratification, but their unanimity should not suggest complete agreement among the electorate. There was opposition both from those with partisan motives and from men who insisted that a bill of rights be incorporated in the document before acceptance. Though all three counties had returned an electoral majority committed to accepting the Constitution as it was submitted, they very soon began to differ in political complexion. In the decade 1790-1800 Kent County, like Sussex, nearly always showed a safe margin for Federalist candidates, while in New Castle County Democrats regularly won, with the State government uninterruptedly in Federalist hands, sometimes by a very narrow popular plurality. This close division of public opinion explains Mrs. Ridgely's unhappy comment in October, 1796, just before a hotly contested election: "Party rage makes our little State a disagreeable place at the present Season." Domestic problems, both national and local, as well as personalities and partisan considerations helped to produce the "party rage" she deplored, but foreign relations were possibly the most bitterly debated single issue between 1795 and 1799. Federalists tended to seek close ties with England, to support the Jay Treaty, and to be increasingly suspicious of revolutionary France. Democrats thought the Treaty failed to safeguard American rights and affronted France gravely enough to provoke retaliation. When the retaliation came, Federalist anti-French feeling mounted to an hysterical pitch as war seemed increasingly imminent. Though the letters in this collection do not give a clear picture of public opinion in Kent County on this issue, a few comments seem worth citing. There are mentions of enlistments, military preparations, enthusiasm for the Federalist cause, widespread wearing of "the Black Cockade" indicating anti-French sentiment, and of politics as the sole interest. At almost the same time Mary Ridgely, inclined to intensity in her emotional responses, was convinced "they will not attempt to raise a Troop of any kind in this County unless the name of Washington 'again in arms' should rouse the lifeless insensible crew." The Whiskey Rebellion of 1794, widespread patriotic societies with democratic leanings, rioting in western Pennsylvania and the Alien and Sedition Acts, as well as the fear of a French invasion and the fact of interference with American shipping are all part of the background of political attitudes during the years 1794-1800.

A striking social change in Kent County between 1775 and 1810 was the decline in slaveholding. The trend, one which affected the entire State, was accompanied by legislative restrictions on importation and exportation of slaves, and, in 1796, by an almost successful effort to emancipate, at maturity, all Negroes born in the State after that date. Though that program failed, its objective came close to being achieved by voluntary methods in the two upper counties, whose figures regarding slavery paralleled each other closely. Those for Kent County illustrate the progress made in the years for which reasonably reliable figures are available. In 1790 slightly over half the 4,870 Negroes listed in the census were free; by 1800 the ratio had risen to three quarters in a total of 5,731, and by 1810 almost nine-tenths of the 6,344 Negroes were freeborn or manumitted, leaving but 728 slaves in the county. The manner in which this change of status occurred is illustrated in the Ridgely family records. Dr. Charles Ridgely's will emancipated one slave and referred to another apparently liberated in his lifetime. Letters written in the decade following his death allude to additional free Negroes in the household, plainly emancipated either by the doctor or his widow. A permit for one of these former slaves to seek employment outside the State, taking an infant son with her, is among the extant papers. In her own will Mrs. Ridgely granted freedom after a specified term of years to seven of the ten slaves listed as her property in 1803.

Ann (Moore) Ridgely's attitude toward her colored dependents, slave and free, was always kindly and responsible. It is illustrated in many passages throughout her correspondence and personal papers, but an incident involving the child Sarah, born in the Ridgely home to a freed mother, affords an excellent example. At about the age of nine the little girl was sent to live in the home of one Henry Cowgill, under the terms of an informal agreement with Mrs. Ridgely. Shortly thereafter an opportunity presented itself for her to be taken into a Philadelphia family where she would "not only be instructed in every kind of work necessary for a woman to undertake in a family, but taught to read and write." Her mistress sought her release to accept this "most extraordinary place". When Mr. Cowgill refused to surrender the child an indenture was arranged whereby he agreed to give her the special advantages offered in Philadelphia in addition to the usual terms of food, clothing, bedding, and medical care equal to what the master would provide "for any person of his own family". At the expiration of her time she was to receive the clothing she then possessed and a new wardrobe consisting of two each of gowns, petticoats, shifts, stockings, handkerchiefs and pairs of shoes.

Dover, about 1795, had an estimated population of six hundred and appears to have grown steadily, though not rapidly. At the turn of the century the town was beginning to expand beyond North Street, its original northern boundary. A widely circulated published description of it at that time states as follows:

> "Dover . . . consists of about a 100 houses, principally of brick. Four streets intersect each other at right angles whose incidences form a spacious parade, on the east side of which is an elegant statehouse of brick. The town has a lively appearance and drives on a considerable trade with Philadelphia. Wheat is the principal article of export. The landing is five or six miles from the town of Dover."[13]

For approximately two months each spring the legislature was in session here. The town's population and business were, of course, materially increased by an influx of those who had business with the State. The letters in consequence usually record more social activity at this season than was common at other times. The balls of which they tell were sometimes elaborate entertainments, sometimes rather casual gatherings and occasionally only children's parties. Among the many reported was a ball and a "Twelfth Cake" at the Vinings' during a round of post-Christmas gaiety which prompted Mrs. Ridgely to remark drily that she thought her own sons were better employed at school. Dancing was a favorite amusement for fall, winter and spring, but appears to have been avoided in summer. Even scholarly Willard Hall, newly arrived from New England, deplored the dullness of a Dover summer and wished for a dance "some cool evening". Casual and formal calls formed an important part of the social picture, though the formality appears less pronounced in Dover than in the larger places. The amenities of life, however, were not neglected. Mrs. Ridgely, writing sarcastically of the discourtesy she felt a relative had shown in permitting her son and daughter, visiting in Philadelphia, to return to their lodgings accompanied by a servant, remarked that such a thing would never have been done "in poor little Dover." There was much tedium in village life, however, and probably more on the surrounding farms, even on one so accessible as "Eden Hill". Evidence of the boredom from which many Kent County residents suffered lies in the heavy drinking and gambling which the letters indicate were prevalent in the neighborhood. Mrs. Ridgely, warning her sons against "gaming" in any form, commented that "Here, you know, Cock fighting, Cards, Billiards and Dice playing [are] as common as eating and drinking". Again, begging her son Henry to be charitable toward an unfortunate school-mate who had unfairly accused him of intoxication, she remarked that "Perhaps he thinks drunkenness no disgrace", since it was so usual in the lad's own otherwise respectable family.

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[13] W. Winterbotham, *An Historical, Geographical, Commercial and Philosophical View of the United States of America,* Vol. II, New York, 1796, p. 463. No attempt has been made to determine whether this widely-quoted paragraph appears in earlier works.

Educational facilities in Dover were still so poor that children of well-to-do families were generally sent away for all schooling beyond the elementary level. Occasionally, it is true, classes in secondary subjects were held. At one time a clergyman had what seems to have been a group of rather advanced students, and a little later Mrs. Ridgely stated that a neighbor's son would probably be withdrawn from Dickinson College if a proposed school was opened on a nearby farm. Apparently the system of traveling tutors, who went from one plantation to another in the neighboring counties of Maryland and other southern states, was not in effect here.

The political atmosphere in Dover, at least so far as it is reflected in these abstracts, was strongly Federalist. The community was, of course, not devoid of Democrats. One of the

Ridgely sisters, referring to "the people who are fond of Equality" plainly had some close neighbors in mind, possibly the Rodneys, Millers, McMullans or Dr. James Tilton, all of whom were of that party. It was, none the less, a minority here at that period. Feeling ran highest from the spring of 1798 through 1799 when tension between the United States and France was at its height and active preparation for war was afoot. Enlistments in both the Army and Navy were numerous. The militia company in Dover, headed by John Vining, for a time appeared prominently in drills, at a patriotic church service and on similar occasions, but a fight at a Fourth of July dinner virtually broke up the organization. Though Mary Ridgely wailed of apathy in Dover, admired her city friends in their various volunteer troops, and wrote "would to Heaven I were a man or that it were customary for the female world to shoulder a Musket and march in defense of their Country", her mother some months later grieved over the daily "sound of fife and drum" in Dover. She strenuously opposed her son Henry's inclination to drop his studies to enlist, pointing out that training was necessary for competence in either military or civil life and that the only honest course for a youth who hoped for a commission if war came was to prepare himself assiduously for his possible duties. She consented, however, to George's enlistment in the Navy. Interestingly enough the letters from Dover do not express the agitation found in those from Philadelphia regarding current political topics. This is probably explained by the fact that as Philadelphia was then the political center of the Country such issues were more vivid to the people there and their reactions were correspondingly more intense.

All the Ridgelys of this generation, despite their occasional differences, had a deep sense of family solidarity and a warm attachment to home. It is true that several of them, the girls particularly, would have preferred a different location and were held in Dover solely by fondness for their mother and for each other, but to each, none the less, the daily routine of "Eden Hill" was an important part of life. An impression of their world as one of casual visits, memorable journeys, parties, social gatherings and leisurely young ladies with their "fine work", their interest in current novels, plays and poetry and their own creditable efforts at composition is completely distorted without its counterpart. It reveals Mrs. Ridgely and her daughters busy with sewing, cooking, preserving, the supervision of servants and the active management of their several farms. One is easily carried back a century and a half to the busy kitchen of this old homestead by reading of the jams and jellies that were preserved there, the directions for "curing" butter with salt, sugar and saltpetre; recipes for Portugal Cake and gingerbread, for a highly spiced concoction of quince juice and brandy called Ratafia, for beef tea, for "portable soup", a picturesque name for bouillon cubes, for peaches preserved in brandy, for clearing coffee with isinglass (said to be much better for the purpose than eggs), for "dressing" a calf's head, for salting shad, for removing stains, for making and using an alum preparation considered a remedy for rheumatism, and for the local delicacy of pickled walnuts. The following recipe for Dutch Pudding is quoted as a curiosity:

> "Take one pound of butter, one pound of loaf sugar, ten egg whites and yolks, mix them together with the sugar and butter, beat them a little, then add one tablespoon of Flour with a little nutmeg or other spice. Rose water or essence of Lemon is very good in it."

Orders for commodities, too, suggest the standard of living at "Eden Hill." There were purchases of linens of all types, plain and book muslin, mantua, nankeen, flannel and a variety of other fabrics reflecting changes in the family's needs or in styles. Again the letters discuss such apparel and accessories as shoes of morocco, leather, and fabric, often in colors, the boots "all young people" were wearing, and gloves, hats, "beavers", and bonnets in the latest London fashion. Stockings, buckles, and the proper buttons for the coat a boy planned to wear to the public examination at his school were selected thoughtfully. For the table one finds such items as wines, Madeira in particular, brandies, tea, figs, spices, citron, tapioca, sugar, butter and sundries. Occasionally there is correspondence about such enduring household furnishings as a silver coffee service, a canopied bed, or a set of fine tableware. Throughout the series are scattered orders for the currently-discussed books. Among them are such titles as *Columbus, Sir Eldred of the Bower, Celestine, Letters on the French*

Nation, The Gamester, Hanah Moore's Works, the ardently admired *Camilla,* Goldsmith's *Traveller,* and *Vicar of Wakefield.* The family's personal papers bear evidence of their fondness for lyric poetry and non-fiction of a serious nature. Not all the merchandise, of course, was in the nature of luxuries or refinements. Many commonplace things like children's school supplies, lumber, bricks and nails needed for the construction or repair of their own or their tenants' dwellings, and memoranda of every-day necessities stand beside the graceful accessories as constant reminders of the daily existence of six generations ago. It is of some interest that Mrs. Ridgely did not consider herself wealthy. Sometimes, indeed, she felt almost poor. In contrast to her attitude is the angry charge of a workman that she was living "in splendour" though neglecting her debts. While her personal papers show that such an attack was completely unjustified, the fact that it was made emphasizes the family's upper middle class status.

As has been pointed out previously, the Ridgely family was not provincial in its outlook or its mode of living from the time its members first became established in Delaware. The luxuries they enjoyed, the interests they displayed and the wide circle of associates they had outside Dover and Kent County prove the breadth of their contacts throughout the Middle Atlantic region. It was during Ann (Moore) Ridgely's time, however, that the closest ties existed between Philadelphia and "Eden Hill", for her father, Judge William Moore of Pennsylvania, had been a prominent colonial official who had reared her in a manner appropriate to his station. From youth until her relatively late marriage she had joined others of her family in extending the hospitality of "Moore Hall", which was not a great distance from the city, to a wide circle of friends among the gentlefolk of southeastern Pennsylvania. After she came to Dover, letters and visits kept alive the more highly valued of her early associations, and as her children matured she encouraged them to become acquainted with her relatives and the families of her intimates.

Philadelphia was the capital both of the United States and of Pennsylvania during much of the period covered by Ann (Moore) Ridgely's correspondence.[14] Its business and cultural leadership of the Middle Atlantic area, and in many respects of the entire country, remained unchallenged during her lifetime. It was by a considerable margin the largest city of the United States. Between 1790 and 1810 its merchants opened flourishing trade with the Orient, the Mediterranean, Baltic ports, and South America to supplement the already widespread business of the late colonial era.[15] Except in occasional times of severe business depression there were tempting opportunities for youths who wished to enter the warehouses or "compting houses." Its manufacturers, some of them beginning to use power installations, supplied a wide market. For the finer grades of work the city boasted some of the country's outstanding craftsmen. It was there that one sent an imported watch to be repaired, that silver of outstanding design and workmanship could be obtained, that the finest American furniture was made or that a fine mirror was taken for reframing. Its college, from 1791 the University of Pennsylvania, grew and prospered, while private or parochial schools offered elementary and secondary schooling to boys and girls from a wide range of social backgrounds. There were masters of the classics and of the polite accomplishments who prepared gentlemen's sons for professional studies and their daughters for appearance in exclusive drawing-rooms. There were also schools suited to the needs of future merchants and craftsmen. Agitation for public schools had started, and, though free education was still in its charity-school phase, opportunities for poor children to obtain an education were probably wider than they had been a generation earlier. There were a few schools for Negro boys and girls. On the level of higher education, Philadelphia retained its preeminence in medical instruction. The presence there of Mrs. Ridgely's nephew, James W. Moore, who had come from Savannah, Georgia to complete his professional studies, reminds one of the city's national reputation in that field. It likewise remained a center of great importance for printing, publishing and the sale of domestically-issued and imported books. Its architecture was in many quarters judged superior to any other in the Country. It had a flourishing theatre, and offered encouragement to amateur and professional musicians, and to artists. The city was Charles Wilson Peale's home, during much of his life and Gilbert Stuart's residence in the decade 1790-1800.

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[14] Lancaster became capital of the State in 1799, Washington the national capital in 1800.

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[15] Francis B. Brandt, *The Majestic Delaware,* Brandt & Gummere Co., Phila., 1929, chap. 6.

During this period it is the Philadelphia of the leading business and professional families to which the Ridgely correspondence introduces its readers, with only an occasional reminder that shopkeepers, artisans and laborers formed the major part of the community. Assemblies, balls, theatres, select parties, frequently with prominent English visitors as guests, and rounds of formal calls provide the social background of the narrative. Sometimes the forthright Ridgely girls were exasperated by the rigid formality of fashionable Philadelphia and rebelled against its intense snobbishness, an attitude alien to their own upbringing. Williamina, wrily amused when she learned Mrs. Cadwalader had made intimates in England of an American family that at home she would have considered "trash" because they had kept a shop, remarked: "She now sees the difference." The younger Ann Ridgely, too, was usually restive during her visits to the city relatives. On some occasions, however, the sisters enjoyed the gaiety and the opportunity to meet a wide circle of well-to-do young people to such an extent that their mother, who did not fully approve "the life the fashionable world now leads" was a little uneasy about the success of her training. Sometimes, too, they found the snobbishness somewhat infectious, as when Mary wrote with approval that U. S. Representative Matthew Lyon had been refused admittance to a Washington's Birthday ball because "none but gentlemen" were welcome.

Although Mrs. Ridgely was related to or friendly with some of the literary group in Philadelphia, there is, oddly enough, little correspondence of this nature in the collection. Dr. William Smith, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, was her brother-in-law, but, although he is often discussed in the letters, there is but one of his own extant. The one insight into the brilliant Philadelphia intellectual group is gained through Mrs. Ridgely's correspondence with Mrs. Elizabeth (Graeme) Ferguson.[16] This, though it represents only the years when the gifted poetess was a lonely, sentimental elderly woman who had "outlived all her near connections" except her husband with whom she was "at variance over halfpenny matters", nevertheless suggests the literary ability that had justified her early triumphs. Ann Moore, in her teens, had known Elizabeth Graeme as her eldest sister's friend, as well as the daughter of a distinguished Scottish physician and relative of Sir William Keith, but above all a young woman who won literary praise in England not shared even by American men. At home she held a leading place in Philadelphia's circle of eager young writers. Bridenbaugh remarks that her translation of *Telemaque* "represents a really massive performance for any English-speaking woman of her time". How much she may have encouraged the future Mrs. Ridgely's fondness for "scribbling" is of course pure conjecture, but her example can certainly have done nothing to make literary competence undesirable in the eyes of an impressionable girl. The brief correspondence between the two as mature women that has survived contains this prophetic bit, written by Mrs. Ferguson in August, 1784:

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[16] Brief accounts of Mrs. Ferguson may be found in J. Thomas Scharf and Thompson Westcott's, *History of Philadelphia,* 1884, vol. II, pp. 1118-1119 and in Bridenbaugh, *op. cit.,* pp. 111-113.

> "I am a Stupid Correspondent, and know nothing that is stirring. I have never even seen a Balloon which not to have seen is the very pretension of Gothic ignorance. Perhaps we may Exchange visits in them if their improvements are as rapid as their progress, a most fashionable vehicle no doubt it will be."

The strong democratic trend evident in Philadelphia among the lower middle class and many of the intellectuals during Washington's second administration, and more markedly in Adams' presidency, is an aspect of the city's social development that could scarcely be guessed from the Ridgely correspondence. There are, however, occasional incidents which reveal a deep antagonism between aristocrats and working men. In one such case Mrs. Bond's coachman, failing to give right of way to a butcher's funeral procession, was promptly attacked for his arrogance by the mourners, whom Mrs. Cadwalader indignantly described as "the lowest wretches". Direct political discussion, most of it from the pens of women or schoolboys, reflected the state of mind in extreme Federal quarters rather than that of the city at large. Among such citizens there was great dread of the French "getting a footing among us." An address made by President Adams, presumably his Inaugural, in the spring of

1797, was applauded as a salutary warning "to the French Directory . . . [and to] the base French Americans". When, late that same summer, a yellow fever epidemic caused the virtual evacuation of Philadelphia, many residents feared that "the French" and their native sympathizers would commit sabotage in the deserted city. The following spring, Federalists thought "a French war" certain. Boys were "mad to go in the Army", and militia enrollments mounted. There were rumors of "French" plots to destroy Philadelphia and of a French convoy being intercepted at sea by the British fleet. Men like Benjamin F. Bache and Dr. George Logan, who sought a peaceful solution of the questions at issue between France and the United States, were looked upon as traitors. Mary Ridgely, visiting in Philadelphia, wrote home passionately that "French Demoes" were not "fit to live", and "Willy" felt that "even women and children" might be allowed to "become patriots" at such a time. Although naval clashes between French and American vessels occurred frequently enough between 1797 and 1801 to constitute an undeclared war, no formal break came. Arbitration begun toward the close of John Adam's presidency was satisfactorily concluded early in Jefferson's administration. With the abatement of real or imagined danger to the United States, political discussion soon faded from the letters the Ridgely family received from Philadelphia.

Prominent as the metropolis was in the lives and thoughts of the Ridgelys of the closing eighteenth century, it was by no means the only outside community that concerned them. Upper New Castle County, Delaware, too, was a locality where they were well acquainted. This section, well settled a generation earlier than central and southern Delaware, presents numerous contrasts with that part of the State. The country is hilly and somewhat rocky, with creeks that in 1790 supplied abundant waterpower and easy transportation. Its population, though like the rest of the State predominantly of English extraction, included an important segment descended from the early Swedish and Dutch colonists and a sizeable group of recent French immigrants in addition to the scattering of other non-English stocks to be found in all three counties. Its residents had been more enthusiastically in favor of the Revolution than their neighbors of the southern counties, and in subsequent years usually supported the political philosophy that soon became identified with the Democratic party. Three New Castle County settlements are somewhat closely associated with the Ridgely family during Ann (Moore) Ridgely's lifetime.

Newark, the earliest to be prominently mentioned, was a hamlet about thirteen miles southwest of Wilmington, not far from the Maryland border. From 1767 its chief claim to notice had been an academy under the supervision of the Presbyterian Church. When Henry and George Ridgely were enrolled there in 1794, the school, originally intended for a college and destined to reach that status in 1834, was in one of its less prosperous periods, though its master, Rev. William Thomson, was highly regarded. Its healthful location and retired situation where the boys had no access to city temptations were assets its friends advertised throughout much of its early history.

New Castle, at the head of Delaware Bay some six miles south of Wilmington, had been the center of Dutch colonization on the river, and the colonial capital of the Lower Counties. It remained the seat of New Castle County until 1881. Winterbotham describes it[17] as comprising about sixty houses "which have the appearance of decay" but Moreau de St. Méry,[18] a French traveler writing of the same period, found the little court town quite impressive. In addition to the court which he saw in session he noted in his journal in May, 1794 a prison, "a supreme court of justice", Episcopal and Presbyterian churches, an inn and some eighty houses, mostly of brick and somewhat widely scattered. The village, besides serving as a county seat, was a junction for travelers between North and South via Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River and Bay. It was also the final provisioning point for sea-going vessels which customarily lay there awaiting favorable weather for clearing the Delaware Capes. A breakwater to provide safe winter anchorage was under construction while the French visitor was there. He remarked ,too, on a line of exceptionally fast, well-appointed packets plying between that town and Philadelphia. His remark that "New Castle at one time fell into decadence but has revived" tallies more closely with references to the community in the Ridgely letters than does the Winterbotham comment.

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[17] W. Winterbotham, *An Historical Geographical, Commercial and Philosophical View of the United States of America* . . . 1st American ed., . . . Vol. 2, N. Y., 1796, p. 463.

[18] Moreau de St. Méry: *Voyage aux Etats-Unis de l'Amerique, 1793-1798,* edited by Stewart Mime, New Haven, 1913, pp. 95-99.

Wilmington, the oldest town in the Delaware Valley in point of continued occupation, was settled by Swedish colonists in 1638, and received its modern name under a borough charter granted by George II in 1739. By 1789, when it first appears in the Ridgely correspondence, it was the largest town in the State of Delaware. Travelers seeing it from the river remarked upon its attractive appearance. An exceptionally complete description of it at the turn of the century appears in an old geography, from which the following account is abridged:[19]

> "Wilmington is a pleasant town, . . . 27 miles s. w. of Philadelphia, containing about 500 houses, mostly brick, and nearly 3000 inhabitants. It is situated two miles west of the river Delaware, between Christiana and Brandywine creeks . . .; the site of the principal part of the town is the southwest side of a hill which rises 109 feet above the tide. On the northeast side of the same hill there are 13 mills for grain, and a considerable number of handsome dwelling houses . . . The Christiana admits vessels of 14 feet draught of water to the town . . . and the Brandywine admits those of seven feet draught to the mills. . . ."

The chronicler lists six churches, two Presbyterian, one each Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist and Friends', describes the imposing three-storey county poor house, 120 by 40 feet, of stone, and the academy building, also of stone, recently reoccupied for its original purpose after a long interruption. Some three hundred students, he says, attended the town's various schools. It was, too, a healthful place with excellent business potentialities. Well-stocked markets were held twice weekly. The extensive trade with Philadelphia, according to this authority, was the principal source of that city's "staple commodity".

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[19] Jedidiah Morse, *American Universal Geography* . . . (1805 edition) part I, pp. 573-574.

Exports of flour, wheat, Indian corn, barley, oats, flaxseed, paper, slit-iron, snuff and "salted provisions" from Wilmington were very heavy. Also in or near the town were established,

> "a cotton manufactury in considerable forwardness; a bolting cloth manufactury; . . . [and in the county] several fulling mills, two snuff mills, one slitting-mill, four paper mills, and sixty mills for grinding grain, all of which are turned by water. But though Wilmington and its neighborhood are probably already the greatest seat of manufactures in the United States, yet they are capable of being much improved in this respect, as the country is hilly and abounds with running water . . ."[20]

The town's political complexion, in sharp contrast to that of Dover and the Philadelphia circle to which the Ridgelys' friends belonged, was strongly Democratic, although Federalists were numerous and vocal enough to make an important opposition party. Dr. James Tilton and John Dickinson, for both of whom Mrs. Ann Ridgely had great respect, were prominent in the opposition to the Jay Treaty and later to the policies of John Adams' administration. So also was Caesar A. Rodney, a nephew of the Signer, who appears in the letters in a somewhat less prominent role than the two friends just named. To the younger generation of the Ridgely family, however, politics furnished only the occasional excitement of election seasons or lent an added bitterness to some already conceived dislike. Their attitudes toward the bustling little village were grounded in far more personal reasons. The younger Ann Ridgely, in her later teens, loved it and longed to live there, for she had a bevy of friends in whose homes she was an eagerly welcomed guest. Sailing parties, picnics, excursions up the Brandywine to the paper mill, walks along it by moonlight with a congenial group, bathing in it, casual and formal calls, balls and evening rides made her visits there happily remembered. Though the bulk of the letters concerning Wilmington of the early 1800's are written by or to her, the older sons and daughters also visited the town with varying degrees of satisfaction, and all had friends there. Among the obligatory calls when a member of the family was in town was one to Miss Mary Vining, a cousin and a noted belle of the Revolutionary period. The homes they really enjoyed visiting were the country places just beyond what were then the city limits, on the hills overlooking the Christiana River and the town itself. It was from Wilmington that Henry M. Ridgely chose his bride, Sally Banning, a former Kent County neighbor whose family had only recently settled in the more northern town. Through her connections there, Wilmington remained a center of interest in the correspondence beyond Ann (Moore) Ridgely's lifetime.

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[20] Jedidiah Morse, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, pp. 573-574.

The quarter century from 1785 to 1810, when Ann (Moore) Ridgely was the unifying figure in her husband's family, witnessed a period of great stresses and uncertainty regarding the fate of the new republic. The dislocations and sufferings caused by the Revolution, the disillusionments under the Articles of Confederation and the utter weakness of the Nation under the new Federal Constitution impinged heavily upon all the people. By comparison our present-day social, governmental and industrial problems lose something of their magnitude. A full realization of the whole force of the struggle for individual liberty, of social and religious frictions and of political strife during that period made it difficult to comprehend how a widow, practically alone, could surmount all these barriers, and those of being a stepmother, to raise her large family successfully. Mrs. Ridgely was indeed an exceptional person, living in an unusual time and her achievements were especially remarkable when it is considered that women were then *persona non grata.*

CHAPTER I

NICHOLAS RIDGELY

1694 1755

Nicholas Ridgely, eldest son of Henry Ridgely II and Catharine Greenberry, was born at the family seat near Annapolis, Maryland, September 12, 1694. At some time previous to 1734 he had established himself in Kent County, Delaware. There, as foreman of the Grand Jury on May 20, 1735, he signed a petition to King George II against granting a charter to Lord Baltimore in abrogation of the claims of the Penn family in the Three Lower Counties.[1] He became a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in 1738, and in 1746 he was commissioned a judge of the Superior Court of New Castle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware, enjoying that honor until his death in 1755. An Act of Assembly in 1751 nominated him one of the commissioners to lay out a market square and supervise the building of a market house in Dover. Other positions he held were Treasurer of Kent County, Prothonotary (1743), Register in Chancery, and Clerk of Peace (1744). His death occurred between February 15 and March 3, 1755. He had married three times and had children by each wife.

While still a youth, in 1711, he chose his first bride, Sarah Worthington of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. She was the mother of five daughters, Sarah, Rebecca, Ruth, Rachel and Ann. Sarah died young and unmarried, as did also her sister, Ann. Rebecca, who married Benjamin Warfield, figures in the extant correspondence only through her daughter Nancy Warfield. Ruth, with her husband James Gorrell, a merchant of Kent County, her daughter Sarah and step-son Jammy Gorrell are often mentioned in letters of the 1750's. Rachel married John Vining and there were two sons, Benjamin and Nicholas, whose names occur in the letters.

After his first wife's death Nicholas left Annapolis, and in 1723 married Ann Gordon, daughter of the New Castle merchant Robert French and widow of James Gordon. Mary Ridgely, the only surviving issue of Nicholas Ridgely and

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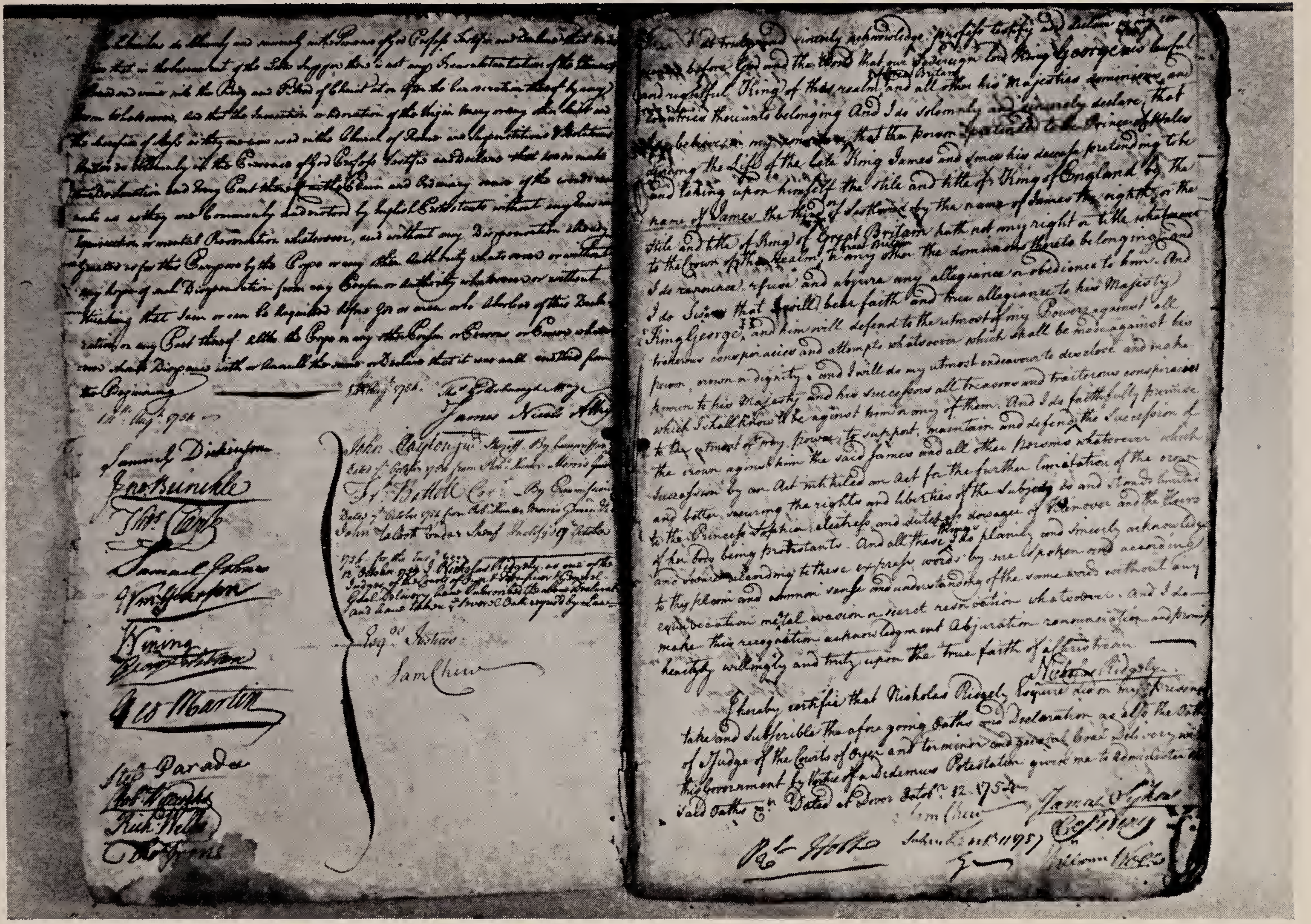
[1] This original signed document is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and a copy is filed in the Delaware State Archives, Hall of Records, Dover, Del.



Oath of Allegiance of Nicholas Ridgely as a Judge of the Courts of Oyer and Terminer and General Goal Delivery, 1754

Ann, married Patrick Martin. A daughter of theirs, whose birth one of the letters mentions, is believed to have been an only child, and to have died in infancy.

Nicholas Ridgely's third wife was Mary Vining, daughter of Hugh Middleton of "Barriton Fields" near Salem, New Jersey, and the widow of Captain Benjamin Vining. Family tradition describes her as a beautiful woman of wealth and charm. Her Ridgely children were Charles Greenberry, Nicholas, who died in childhood, Sarah and Elizabeth. Sarah married Rev. Samuel Magaw, sent by the S. P. G. to the Mission at Dover, but died soon afterward, leaving no children who survived. Elizabeth became the wife of Thomas Dorsey of Maryland. They left many descendants near Elkridge Landing. The letters mention many of these persons. A later chapter is devoted to Charles Greenberry Ridgely through whom the Delaware branch of the family descends.

Nicholas Ridgely and his family also had close ties with representatives of two other prominent Delaware families. Caesar Rodney,[2] the future Revolutionary leader and Signer, was his ward from the age of seventeen, and his stepchildren, John and Mary Vining, were, from the tenor of the letters, intimates in his household. Mary Vining, who died without issue, married Rev. Charles Inglis,[3] Missionary to the English Church in Dover, later Rector of Old Trinity in New York, and finally the first Bishop of Nova Scotia. John Vining, the "Johney" of these letters, held many important offices in Kent County during the colonial period, among which were: Justice of the Supreme Court 1756-1764, and Chief Justice of the Three Lower Counties from 1764 until his death in 1770. He was the father of Mary Vining, the Revolutionary belle, and John Vining, the younger, a brilliant lawyer and orator who served his State in its legislature and in Congress as well.

The portion of Nicholas Ridgely's correspondence preserved in this collection is mainly a series of letters between him and his son Charles Greenberry while the latter was at school. The uncalendared personal papers include only two bills for food and beverages and for tuition and books.

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[2] For a fuller account of him consult *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney 1756-1784* by Dr. George H. Ryden, Philadelphia, 1933.

[3] Consult *Life and Letters of Charles Inglis* by J. W. Lydekker, Suffolk, England, 1936; and *Charles Inglis, Missionary, Loyalist and Bishop (1734-1816)* by Reginald Harris, Toronto, 1937.

ABSTRACTS

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover Town, from THO[MA]S COOK, Barbad[o]s, [W. I.], Mar. 29, 1742.

Inquires, in behalf of Mr. Peter Keen, about the value, condition and encumbrances of a tract of land near Dover. Mr. Keen, a native of Pennsylvania, plans to purchase the property, if desirable, and return from Barbados to occupy it.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 29cm.

NICHOLAS R[IDGELY], Dov[er], from RICHARD PETERS, Philad[elphi]a, July 31, 1743.

Asks Mr. Ridgely to withdraw his action against Mr. Wilcoxs for assault. Believes an amicable settlement "on honourable terms" is possible.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.3cm.

NICHOLAS REDGLEY [RIDGELY], Esq., Dover, Kent County supra Del., from RICH[AR]D SMITH, [n. p.], Dec. 26, 1743.

Discusses the title to land called "Duncaster", defending James Steel's right under a later survey, against Philomon Lloyd's claim under the heirs of John Edmundson. Believes the elder Edmundson had never fulfilled the terms of his warrant and held no patent.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 30cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from RICHARD PETERS, Philadelp[hi]a, June 26, 1750.

Reprimands Mr. Ridgely for tardiness in returning his account to the Governor. Hopes a prompt apology will restore him to favor, and affirms his personal regard for him.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.9cm. x 33.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 3, 1751.

Is glad his son is pleased with Philadelphia, his school, and his "Master Mr. Dove", who thinks him a promising pupil. Urges diligence in study, and courtesy toward servants. Is willing for him to come home at Christmas if Mr. Dove then comes to Dover. Sends "Six Spa[ni]sh Dollars Rowled up in brown Paper w[hi]ch I hope you will use prudently", about 120 goose quills, and letters to Dr. Thomas Bond and the shoemaker, John Colly, asking that credit be extended him as needed. Several of the family have been ill. Mentions Charles' sister Rachel [Vining] and [her son] Benny, [niece] Sally Gorrell, [brother-in-law] Mr. [James] Gorrell, and sister Ruthey [Gorrell]). Mr. [Andrew] Doz [the shallopman] could not get "a joynted Baby for Sally Gorrel" for the money Charles gave him for the purpose.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 31.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 28, 1751.

Discourages a trip home before spring "when the Shallops run and then you can come conveniently down." Is sending "all the Latin Books I could find, . . . your Leather Breeches to be washed in Ph[iladelphia]", twenty shillings, "to use as you have occasions" and a pair of "Red Damask shoes, to be made [for Mrs. Ridgely] by Colly to the measure therewith sent." Mr. Gorrell, [slave] Tom, and Capt. Vining and wife are in Philadelphia; Johney [Vining] will arrive there soon "from the Assembly at Newcastle where he now is."

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.9cm. x 15.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 20, 1751.

Sends, "in an Ozenbrig bag p[e]r [Andrew] Doz Broad cloath and all Trimings to make you a winter Jackett," forty-one shillings to pay for having it made and for other needs, "a pr. of mittons with some thread and worsted to mend your stockings and things", and two bundles of goose quills, 150 for his son's use and 400 as a gift for Mr. Dove. Must remain in the city until spring. Sister Polly Vining and Mr. Gorrell are ill. Mentions "Sally and Jammy" [Gorrell], his sister Ruth, and Johney [Vining], who did not go to the city after his return from the Assembly. "Levy Court just broke up."

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.9cm. x 19.5cm.

CHARLES GREEN[BERR]Y RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philad[elphi]a, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 7, 1751.

Mr. Dove and Dr. Bond report Charles' progress and conduct very satisfactory. Brother [in-law] James Gorrell was buried yesterday. Sends yarn stockings for cold weather, and twenty shillings "to use as you may have occasion, Frugally." Refuses permission to come home Christmas when the weather will probably be bad and "traveling unpleasant, Inconvenient and very Expensive." Mentions members of the Gorrell and Vining families, and Andrew Doz.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 1, 1752.

Hopes Mr. Dove will accompany Charles to Dover at Easter, and stay at the Ridgely home. Ruthy [Gorrell] wishes to enroll [her step-son] Jammy Gorrell at the same school. Asks if Charles is willing "he shall be your Bedfellow", which "two of the Dorseys Sons of Elkridge in Maryland" are at school in Philadelphia, and where. Sends three pounds for "a middle priced" dictionary. Does not object to his son having Latin lessons individually if Mr. Dove wishes. Mentions all members of the family, and "Robbon" [a slave].

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.9cm. x 19.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 21, 1752.

Suggests that Charles return home by shallop at Easter with Mr. Doz, "now loaded in little Creek", unless Mr. Dove prefers to travel by land; in that case he may "hyre a Horse" and accompany his teacher. Sammy and Johnny Chew are also expected down. Encloses twenty shillings. "Poor Robbin" is still ill; the family is well.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at The Academy, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Dover], May 12, 1752.

Urges his son to take great care of his [infected?] leg, remaining away from classes if necessary. Acknowledges receipt of a bundle from Philadelphia and tells of sending 30 shillings to buy "thread stockings" and refers to "your wigg box." "Sister Polly Ridgely is marryd to Pat Martin." Wishes a clerk at once, "a Sober orderly Quiet person, that writes a midling good hand. . . ." Offers "accommodations',, twelve pounds a year, and "future advantage."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15.7cm. x 19cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, May 25, 1752.

Is still somewhat worried about Charles' leg. Decision about "your cyphering" rests with Mr. Dove. Received shoes, tumblers and napkins recently sent. Thinks he has found a clerk "near home." Wishes him to keep a dictionary he has bought. Mentions "a striped Holland Jackett." Hopes Jammy Gorrell is "[by th]is time well satisfied" [at school with Charles].

A. L. S. [incomplete] 1 p. 12cm. x 19.3cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY,

Dover, July 2, 1752.

Sends "things in a bagg for you & Jammy Gorrel", and "Twenty Shillings for your Occasions."

A. L. S. 1. p. 19cm. x 15.6cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, July 16, 1752.

Has written "to Mr. Dove that you are to be kept to your Latin, & not to be hindered by Cyphering until he thinks it more proper for you to [be] putt to Cypher." Mother has sent a bundle of clothing.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.5cm. x 19.4cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 20, 1752.

Is delighted with an excellent report from Mr. Dove on Charles' progress and behavior. Urges him to remain studious and obedient, and to "avoid all Idle, mean company." The teacher is gratified that his advice that the boy be "kept to . . . Latin and not . . . taken off, by going to Arithmetic til some time hence" has been accepted.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.5cm. x 19.4cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Academy, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 17, "New Stile"—1752.

Discourages his plan of "coming down with Jammy Gorrell to our Election", since it will interrupt his Latin and the uncertain weather might delay his return. Does not forbid it if Mr. Dove fully approves, but advises waiting until spring. Mother is suffering with "the ague & Fever", and sister Betsy [Ridgely], Sally Gorrell & "little Ben" [Vining] have recently recovered.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15.5cm. x 19.4cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. DOVE'S at the Academy, Philad[elphi]a, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 29, 1752.

Understands his son's resentment "about the parson", but believes "what he said to Mr. Dove was from a medling imprudence" rather than "malice . . . to any of the Family." Warns against "conceiving prejudice." Sends forty shillings to purchase "the spectators", under Mr. Dove's direction. Mother is sending "four new shirts, one pair of worsted and two pairs Yarn Stockings"; wishes his old clothing sent home for "our Negro boys." Rachel has been ill. "My man Robin, your Mother's Mare, and my Dog Lyon all Dy'd this Summer, w[hi]ch are losses."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15.3cm. x 19cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., near Dover, from CHA[RLE]S GREEN[BERR]Y RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Nov. 2, N. S., 1752.

Has advanced in his studies sufficiently to need "a Virgil price 7 [shillings] 6 [pence] Selectae Profanis 7 [shillings] 6 [pence] [and] Quintus Curtius 16 [shillings]." Mentions Mr. Nixon, sister Rachel Vining, Jemmy [Gorrell] and [Mr.] Doz.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.6cm. x 33cm.

NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from [CHARLES GREENBERRY RIDGELY], Phil[a]d[elphi]a, Nov. 18, 1752.

Was glad to hear the family was well, but is disappointed at receiving no letter. His studies are progressing satisfactorily. Promises to be economical, but says "as to the Gun, if you think it improper for me, I've no more to say."

A. L. U. 1 p. 17cm. x 21cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 29, 1752.

Sends "three fifteen shilling bills" for needed Latin books. Mother and Rachel [Vining] have recovered from recent serious illnesses. "Our Orphan's Court hath kept me till late this night", so writes in haste before [Andrew] Doz goes "down the Creek with his Shallop this night Tide."

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.3cm. x 19.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 6, 1752.

Sends "two peaces of Eight to buy you Germantown Stockings, which are much better & cheaper than any I can gett in Maryland, or with us." Also encloses fifty shillings for "a light gray wig", preferably ready made; "it must not be a Short Bob but as long as you can gett, full & big; in the caul or head full large to the Inclosed thread . . .; the wigg to be as light a gray as you can gett for that price, and as full of hair & good." The family is well. Mentions Mrs. Chew, Mr. Biddle and [Negro] Tom.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15cm. x 19cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 16, 1752.

Sends fifteen shillings "to make up for the wigg, and to gett a pair of Black Leather shoes . . . for your Sister Polly Vining." Asks about Charles' own shoemaker's bills. Is sending Mr. Dove forty shillings for past and current "Quarter's Schooling." Mentions Mr. Chew's "little Child Betsy, at our House" while her parents are in Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.4cm. x 19cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Dover], from B[ENJAMIN] CHEW, N[ew] Castle, Del., Feb. 20, 1753.

Asks for a writ of possession on a judgement against Caleb Luff to block an appeal of a verdict favoring Mr. Chew.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 20, 1753.

Consents to the purchase of a set of "Universal Historys" at eight pounds, "reserving to myself the use of them." Sends "Twenty-two Spanish Milled Dollars . . . Rowled up in White Paper" in payment, also 2£ 15 [shillings] for two quarters' tuition and "your winter's fireing", and 3£ 10 [shillings] for cloth. Mother orders 20 yds. "of the best black Callimanco of a shining clear black for herself & your Sister Ruthy [Gorrell], . . . and for your sister Polly [Vining] Ten Yards of Scarlett Calimanco." She also wants "a pair of Black leather Shoes . . . with white rands, made neat of Soft fine Leather." Expects his son home in the spring. Hears the Dickinsons and the Chews are to be down.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15.4cm. x 19cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at The Academy, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Apr. 13, 1753.

May use his "Dancing money" for a jacket if it can be made before he leaves for home. Is to bring with him volumes I-II of *"Universal History."* Hopes Mr. Dove can visit the Ridgely family. Discusses payment for recent purchases for the family.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 27.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Academy, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, June 18, 1753.

And[re]w Doz failed to take "your Box and things." Asks Charles to have a pair of shoes of "fine thin Soft Leather and white rands or thin good pumps" made for his mother while Negro Tom, "who I have Permitted to come to Philad[elphi]a, chiefly on his own Acct.", is in town. "Ourselves & Family, and all at the Mill are well."

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.8cm. x 30.5cm.

NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, [Dover], from CHA[RLE]S GREEN[BERR]Y RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, June 21, 1753.

Wishes a "Tunick . . . (price about 45 s[hillings])" for wear during the hot weather, "for it is full warm to wear a cloth-coat, and it does not look very well to wear Jackets." Also wants to have the "books bound that were hurt when the Shallop overset." Needs "18 or 20 [shillings'] worth of Books." Asks his mother to "send up my Box with Pomfret's Poems, Young Man's Companion and Locke on Education" and its key. Mentions Jemmy [Gorrell].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 31.7cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, June 30, 1753.

Charles may buy a "Tunick." Will send money for it as soon as cash is available. Mother sends stock buckles for repair of shoe buckles "if you have a mind to have them new made." Mother is ill "with a Swelling in her face & neck."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 30.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from CHA[RLE]S G[REENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, July 13, 1753.

Mr. Dove has left the Academy because of a disagreement with the Trustees, and plans to open a small school of his own. Charles wishes to continue with him. Censures the Trustees' conduct.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 31cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from RICHARD PETERS, Philadelphia, July 23, 1753.

Presents to Mr. Ridgely and Mr. Vining the Academy Trustees' case on the dismissal of Mr. Dove. Believes his successor in charge of the English School, Mr. Kinnersly, will "give entire satisfaction" and asks that "the two Boys [Charles Ridgely and James Gorrell] be still continued at the Academy."

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.5cm. x 22.7cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. D. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, July 26, 1753.

Regrets Mr. Dove's break with the Trustees of the Academy, but thinks it best that Charles complete his training, as he wishes to do, under the teacher with whom he started. Has asked Mr. Dove to accept him in the newly organized school. Supposes "he will Instruct writeing & arithmetick, as well as Reading & Latin."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 31.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, August 18, 1753.

Approves his son's spirited defense of his teacher in the dispute with the Academy, but cautions him to behave toward all the Trustees with the same respect as if he were still under their supervision. Polly Vining and Polly Martin are both ill with ague.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 30.7cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 4, 1753.

Charles' box of books has not been delivered. "Sister Rachel [Vining] and her little child Nicky" are both very ill. Is sending 100 quills. "People are and have been very sickly in our parts with the Flux & Divers other disorders, and some have Died."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 22.5cm.

[NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover], from CHA[RLES] G[REENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, Oct. 1, 1753.

Tells of a brutal murder. Needs some stockings and a hat. Sends Mr. Dove's account for books and papers. Quotes prices of needed Ovid and Horace texts. Inquires if he is to leave school in the spring, by which time he expects to have a good command of Latin.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 33.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Dover], Nov. 13, 1753.

Sister Rachel [Vining], after apparently beginning to recover from the "violent Rheumatick pains" from which she had suffered "for some years past", died yesterday from the effects of an acute [malarial] attack. "Is to be buried Thursday in ye Church; her little Babys and all our Familys are in tolerable Bodily health." Mother was disappointed at receiving no butter in the recent box from Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 31cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from CHA[RLES] GREEN[BERRY] RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, Nov. 20, 1753.

Was shocked by the news of his sister's death, for he had hoped her recent improvement was the beginning of recovery. Mentions [her young sons] Nicky and Benny [Vining]. Has finally obtained 53 pounds of butter at 7 pence per pound. Is "dear and scarce" because of "a bad summer" for it.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.6cm. x 30.5cm.

CHARLES GREEN[BERR]Y RIDGELY, at MR. DOVE'S, Philad[elphi]a, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 3, 1753.

Fears sister Ruthey [Gorrell] is "going the way of her Dear Sister Rachel." Mother, sister Polly, visitors [cousin] Betsy Ridgely and granddaughter Nancy Warfield, and Mr. Ridgely himself are all ill with "bad Colds and fevers." Wants mother's jumps [bodice worn in place of stays] sent down "if Boning has been done." Sends 300 goose quills, "three shurts & a p[ai]r of yarn Stockings for your Self—and two Shurts for Jammy" [Gorrell].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 31cm.

CHARLES GREEN[BERR]Y RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, from [Mrs.] Mary Ridgely, Dover, Dec. 4, 1753.

Sends "three Ruffled Shirts and a pair of very fine yarn Stockins for your self and 2 shirts for James." The jumps will be useless if not sent down "this trip, . . . for I want them for the Cold weather." She will have the care of Rachel's children. Mentions a visit of two of Ben Warfeil[d's] children and "Cozen Betsy Ridgely." Sister [Ruth] Gorrell is very ill; "we think her in some Deep decay." Orders a scrubbing brush and a hair brush. Reproves him for not writing to Polly Vining, who is in poor health.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 31.3cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 12, 1754.

Sister Ruthey [Gorrell] has been in a "hopeless condition" since the beginning of December. "She is in a decay." Dr. [Phineas] Bond has been consulted. Gives his son permission to omit dancing lessons, though "I think it adds to the Accomplishment of Behavior & Carriage and Qualifies a person for Polite Company." Considers French necessary, "especially to understand it." Approves the purchase of leather breeches. Send 3£ to pay for mother's jumps and 6£ 1 shilling for a coat, suitable for dancing classes if he attends, and "Entrance Money."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 31.5cm.

[NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover], from CHA[RLE]S G[REENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, Feb. 19, 1754.

Needs breeches for spring. "Knit-Breeches, . . . in patterns" cost about 30 shillings, Shagg about 50 shillings, but the latter wear exceptionally well. "I want also about 12 or 15 [shillings] to get some old clothes mended." Hopes sister Ruthy [Gorrell] is recovering, and that his cousins "will stay with you 'till I go Home."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 16cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at MR. D. JAMES DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 23, 1754.

Sister Ruthey is still alive but there is little hope for her recovery. Mother has just recovered from "a violent Cholick disorder." Wishes to be notified, with particulars, if "a Likely young Negro fellow or Lad" is offered for sale. Brother Johnny [Vining] wants information about suitable varieties of apple trees, and their cost. "Three or four apricots . . . and some Philbuds" [Filberts] may also be sent. Inquires how Mr. Dove prefers to have "his schooling money" paid.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 31.5cm.

NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from [CHARLES GREENBERRY RIDGELY], Philad[elphi]a, Mar. 4, 1754.

Is anxious about his sister's [Ruth Gorrell] condition. Will let his father know if he finds a suitable Negro. Can buy an excellent "Latin and French Horace in 10 Volumes, . . . for 50 [shillings]." Asks if he is to leave school at the close of the quarter, and for permission "to ride Home." Has not yet gotten the apricot or cherry trees but has secured "some Graffs of a very fine sort of Cherry" and "a couple of Filberds" [Filberts]. All varieties of apple trees are available at a shilling each.

A. L. U. 2 pp. 20.8cm. x 33cm.

CHARLES GR[EENBERR]Y RIDGELY, at MR. DOVE'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 25, 1754.

Sister Ruthy died March 10, after being confined to bed since December. Wants Charles to come home as soon as possible; he may return to complete his time if it is not finished. May come overland if horse hire is not too expensive. Will discuss his son's "next employment" during the visit at home. Received the "Filbords" [Filberts] but not the Cherry grafts. Wants no other young trees this season. Needs an iron chimney back, very large, preferably "the Palatine Stove Plates."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 31cm.

NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from CHA[RLE]S G[REENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, Mar. 29, 1754.

Is grieved, though not surprised, at the death of his sister [Ruth Gorrell]. Needs money for a shoemaker's bill, boots and incidentals. Wishes to come home overland.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.8cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from CHA[RLES GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, Nov. 5, 1754.

Has recovered from his own illness, and is much concerned over father's health. Alludes to an important decision soon to be made. Needs "a thick coat, . . . and a Jacket . . . of Green-

Nap, or any such Thing." The winter's butter supply should be ordered promptly. Inquires about the trial of a Negro.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 32.5cm.

NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from CHA[RLE]S [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, Nov. 15, 1754.

Jail-fever, probably "a species of Yellow-Fever" has been virulent during the past ten days, causing many deaths. Unseasonable warmth is blamed for its severity.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 16.3cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 21, 1754.

Has been ill of "low intermiting Fevers" but has recovered sufficiently to attend to business. Nothing has been said about Charles being bound [to Dr. Phineas Bond], a step his father thinks unnecessary. Sister Polly Vining has been critically ill for a week past from constant nausea and inability to swallow. "Dr. . . . Wells says her stomach is turned and therefore nothing can pass [into it or from it]" but Dr. [James] Anderson from Newtown diagnoses the condition as a liver complaint. She showed improvement under his care. Nancy Warfield "stil has the ague & fever."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 31cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, Nov. 26, 1754.

Hopes his father and sister have fully recovered. Thinks Dr. Wells' diagnosis of Polly's illness ridiculous and Dr. Anderson's much more plausible. Dr. [Phineas] Bond has not mentioned his being bound to him [as a medical student].

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 19cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., near Dover, from CHA[RLE]S [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, Dec. 1, 1754.

Wants an old desk belonging to his [step]brother sent for his use. "Mr. Willing died yesterday of the Palatine Fever", but the epidemic is abating.

A. L. S. 1 p. 14cm. x 16.3cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 27, 1754.

Has only "lately . . . got clear of the fevers" from which he had suffered since October. Expects Johney Vining and Phoebe Wynkoop soon to marry, "and perhaps a match may be made up with Tho[ma]s Wynkoop & Polly Vining." Will ship the old desk soon "if it is worth sending."

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 33.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at DR. [PHINEAS] BOND'S, Philadelphia, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Duck Creek, [Del.], Dec. 30, 1754.

Describes the illness of sister Polly Martin, which he fears is consumption, though Dr. Storey treats it as ague and fever only. Asks Dr. Bond's advice. Mentions "the Family at the Mill."

A.L. S. 1 p. 18.5cm. x 30.5cm.

[NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover], from CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philad[elphi]a, Dec. 30, 1754.

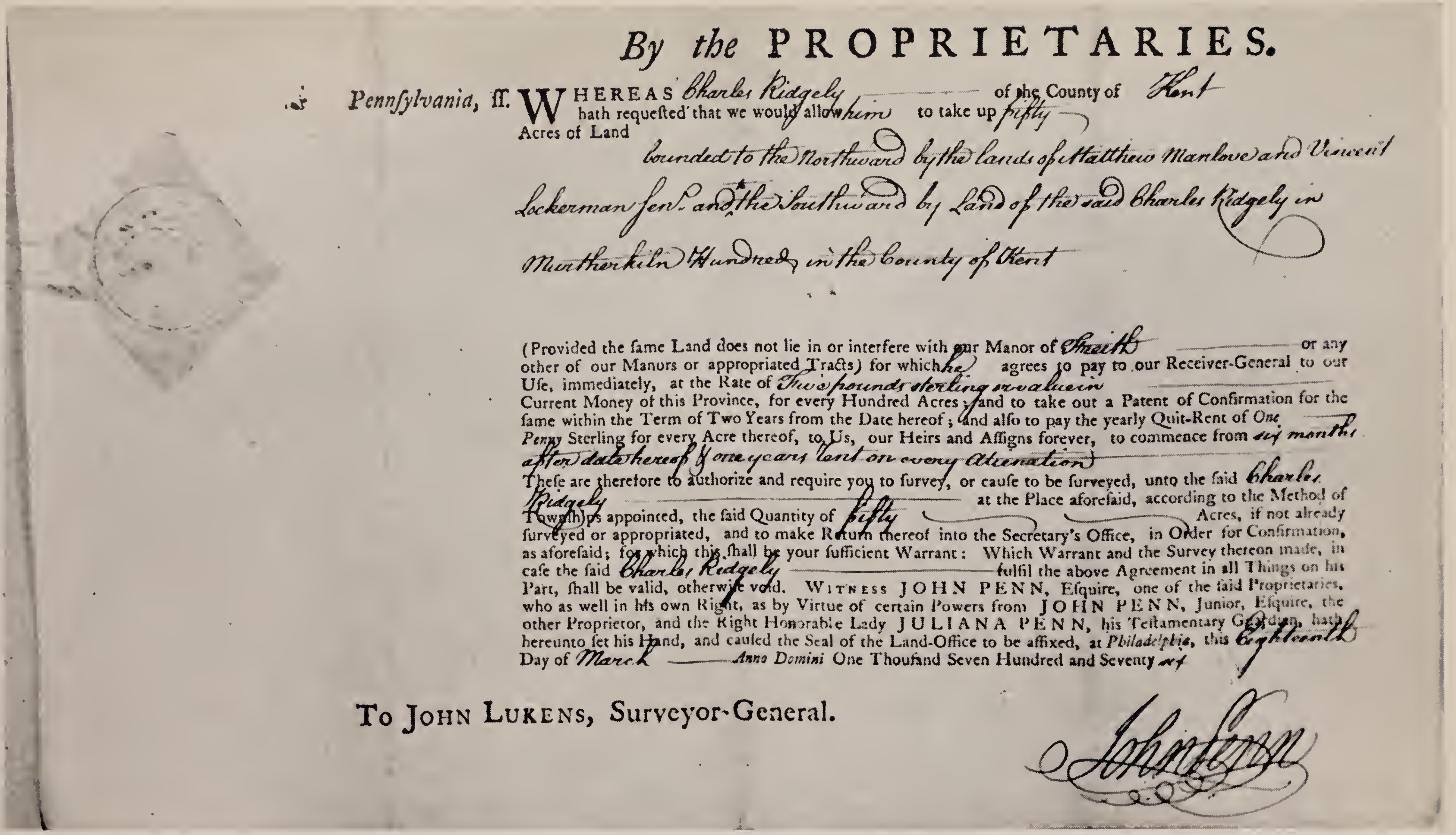
Believes "Mr. Vining's wedding [is] not far off." Hopes the Palatine Fever epidemic has passed. French deserters report "a Party of Indians had march'd as far as Carlisle . . . and done some Damage."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 11.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from P[ATRICK] MARTIN, Duck Crick [sic], Jan. 20, 1755.

Reports the death of "my Dier Poley" [his wife, née Mary Ridgely, daughter of Nicholas by his second marriage] earlier in the evening. Hopes his father[-in-law] can come at once.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.3cm. x 18.5cm.



By the PROPRIETARIES.

Pennſylvania, ſſ. WHEREAS Charles Ridgely of the County of Kent hath requeſted that we would allow him to take up fifty Acres of Land bounded to the Northward by the lands of Matthew Manlove and Vincent Lockerman Senr. and the Southward by Land of the said Charles Ridgely in Murtherkiln Hundred in the County of Kent

(Provided the ſame Land does not lie in or interfere with our Manor of Smith or any other of our Manors or appropriated Tracts) for which he agrees to pay to our Receiver-General to our Uſe, immediately, at the Rate of Two pounds sterling or value in Current Money of this Province, for every Hundred Acres; and to take out a Patent of Confirmation for the ſame within the Term of Two Years from the Date hereof; and alſo to pay the yearly Quit-Rent of *One Penny* Sterling for every Acre thereof, to Us, our Heirs and Aſſigns forever, to commence from six months after date hereof & one years Rent on every Alienation

Theſe are therefore to authorize and require you to ſurvey, or cauſe to be ſurveyed, unto the ſaid Charles Ridgely at the Place aforeſaid, according to the Method of Townſhips appointed, the ſaid Quantity of fifty Acres, if not already ſurveyed or appropriated, and to make Return thereof into the Secretary's Office, in Order for Confirmation, as aforeſaid; for which this ſhall be your ſufficient Warrant: Which Warrant and the Survey thereon made, in caſe the ſaid Charles Ridgely fulfil the above Agreement in all Things on his Part, ſhall be valid, otherwiſe void. WITNESS JOHN PENN, Eſquire, one of the ſaid Proprietaries, who as well in his own Right, as by Virtue of certain Powers from JOHN PENN, Junior, Eſquire, the other Proprietor, and the Right Honorable Lady JULIANA PENN, his Teſtamentary Guardian, hath hereunto ſet his Hand, and cauſed the Seal of the Land-Office to be affixed, at *Philadelphia*, this Eighteenth Day of March *Anno Domini* One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Seventy six

To JOHN LUKENS, Surveyor-General.

John Penn

A WARRANT FROM JOHN PENN, MARCH 18, 1776, TO CHARLES RIDGELY FOR FIFTY ACRES OF LAND

CHAPTER II

CHARLES GREENBERRY RIDGELY

1737 1785

Charles Greenberry Ridgely, eldest son of Nicholas and Mary (Middleton) Ridgely, was born at his maternal grandfather's home, "Barriton Fields", near Salem, New Jersey on January 26, 1737/38. His father had by 1748 acquired 232 acres of the present "Eden Hill" farm, adjoining the present western limits of the town of Dover, and established a home there.[1] At about the age of thirteen Charles was enrolled at the Academy in Philadelphia, later the University of Pennsylvania, where he was under the tuition of Mr. David James Dove.[2] This eminent teacher was gratified when Mr. Ridgely accepted his advice that his son ". . . be kept to . . . Latin and not hindered by cyphering until [Mr. Dove] thinks it more proper." When his teacher broke with the Trustees of the Academy over instruction policies, Charles Ridgely was among the students who followed him to his new school. Toward the end of his three years' preparation for professional study his father, somewhat reluctantly, permitted him to omit instruction in dancing, but said ". . . as for your learning French I think it necessary especially to understand it." At about sixteen years of age the young man began the study of medicine under the noted Dr. Phineas Bond of Philadelphia. His father, who died not long after the apprenticeship started, provided in his will for its completion.

Dr. Ridgely returned to Kent County in early manhood to practice his profession and, like his father, was active in public affairs. In March of 1767 he moved into the Thomas Parke house, facing Dover Green, which has since been known as the Ridgely House. From 1764 until the Revolution he was a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and for the period 1769-79 he was Treasurer of Kent County. He served as a Justice of the Peace and in 1782 was one of several persons commissioned to "qualify all officers civil and military within the County of Kent." During the Revolution he was a patriot of the more conservative party, although he did serve for awhile on the Kent County Committee of Correspondence.

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[1] Kent County, Delaware Deeds, Liber N^1, folio 235, Office of Recorder of Deeds, Dover, Delaware.

[2] Refer to *History of the University of Pennsylvania* by E. P. Cheyney, Phila., 1940; and *Rebels and Gentlemen* by Carl & Jessica Bridenbaugh, N. Y., 1942.

The first Mrs. Charles Ridgely was Mary Wynkoop (daughter of Abraham), the mother of Nicholas, Abraham, Charles and John, and a daughter Mary, who died in infancy. Only the first two children mentioned lived to full maturity and none left descendants. Dr. Ridgely's second marriage in 1774 was to Ann Moore, the daughter of Judge William and Williamina (Wemyss) Moore, of St. David's, Radnor Parish, Chester County, Pennsylvania, by whom there were five additional children, Williamina, Mary, Henry Moore, George Wemyss and Ann. Mary and Henry M. Ridgely are the ancestors of the living representatives of the family.

Mrs. Ann Ridgely's correspondence records her not very fruitful consultations with her husband's medical colleagues when he became alarmingly ill in the fall of 1785. He died November 25th, and was buried in Dover in the cemetery of Christ Church, of which he had been a vestryman.

His correspondence is made up of casual business and social letters of the years 1753-1785. A few indicate the growing political tension of the last years before hostilities of the Revolution opened, three are to his son Charles regarding the young man's first business ventures, and there is a most interesting interchange between him and his brother-in-law the Rev. Charles Inglis, missionary to the English Church in Dover, later Rector of Old Trinity, New York, and finally the first colonial Bishop of Nova Scotia. This series presents an intimate personal discussion of a religious and psychological nature, an analysis of the situation of the Church of England in central Delaware, and comments on the political situation in New York shortly before the outbreak of the Revolution. In a vivid passage relative to the most unsatisfactory distribution of the clergy in Kent County, Dr. Ridgely ridicules the contention that:

> "no clergyman can be found who will accept the lower Churches if separated from the Dover Mission—that the neighborhood not being sufficiently polite, nor the income large enough, for a Gentleman. . . . What, not one Clergyman to be found who would willingly la-

> bour under some small inconveniences for God's sake and his Duty's sake? Not one single Clergyman to be met with so unprovided, but £150 a year might tempt him to pass some, or even all his days among a parcel of impolite, yet honest and worthy men? If this is true, the Glory of our Church, her power and Influence, are at an end."

Dr. Ridgely's personal papers in possession of the Public Archives Commission, but not included in this calendar, include three documents relating to levies of the United States upon the state governments for funds to defray national expenses; a draught of the first constitution of "the Delaware State", a bond he held, "Parliamentary Queries proposed, tis said, to B. Franklin, Esq. and his Answers", and a shoemaker's bill for the years 1781-84 presented to his estate.

ABSTRACTS

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, at The Academy, Philadelphia, from JOHN WRIGHT, Charles Town, [Md.?], April 1, 1753.

Dined recently with "your father, Mr. Martin, Caeser Rodeney and several other Gent. in our County." Mr. Ridgely and Mr. Rodney have gone to Salem, [N. J.]. Rachel [Vining] has an infant son and Polley Martin a daughter. Wishes Charles to call for a watch left in Philadelphia to be sold and "send it down by our Post who will be in Philad[elphi]a ab[ou]t Tuesday night next. . . . If you come to George Town at Easter I hope to have the pleasure of y[ou]r comp[an]y."

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.5cm. x 29cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, [n. p.], from D. JAM[ES] DOVE, Philadelphia, Apr. 15, 1754.

Wishes his pupil success and happiness as he sets out in the world. Urges him to consider his course "maturely", in the light of the fable of Hercules as adapted by Spencer from Xenophon. Expects his books from London soon. Wishes to know what Mr. [John] Vining wishes done with Jemmy [Gorrell], and hopes to hear often from Charles.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15.8cm. x 19.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., near Dover, from SAM[UE]L CHEW, Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1754.

Was interested to hear of "Duffy's Death" and the "Fate of the Hangman" who had impudently prepared to mete out to another the punishment he himself deserved. Hopes he will be suitably dealt with. Yellow fever in Philadelphia has been checked by recent cold days. Billy Martin is their only acquaintance among the victims. Mr. Barton's prospective ordination in London shows "that Holy Order is fallen into great Contempt, when such Fellows as he are made Parsons."

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 21.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, from HEN[RY] BICKERTON, Dover, Sept. 2, 1755.

Speaks of accounts he has inspected [in settlement of N. Ridgely's estate]. Local interest is centered on "the great Revolutions which are to happen among our Representatives; Vincent Loockerman & Samuel Johns are Strong in the Parkeian Scheme & Poor Vin[cent] who is as unfortunate in his Politicks as in his English" declares that he "will Exasperate himself in an Extraordinary Mannor to appeal the confounded Excise Law"; "Honest Caesar" appreciates Charles' "kind wishes in his favour."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 32.5cm.

CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY at DR. PHINEAS BOND'S, Philadelphia, from SAM[UE]L STRINGER, Fort Edward, [N. Y.], June 28, 1757.

Expects soon to be attacked by the French. Thinks the fine "Bom proof" [British] fort can be defended. A French prisoner brought in by "our Indians" says their Army is moving against Fort Edward from Crown Point with artillery taken from Braddock. Crown Point is now only lightly held. "French Neutrals . . . who deserted from the Province of N. York in order to join the French" have surrendered themselves "for want of Provisions" and say others will soon do likewise. Mentions Dr. and Mrs. [P.] Bond and "all the young gent[leme]n in ye Shop."

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from [REV.] CHARLES INGLIS, New York, Dec. 26, 1765.

Arrived safely "last Monday" and was warmly welcomed by [Trinity] Church members. Business is almost at a standstill; "no vessels are cleared out." Sons of Liberty were restrained from seizing and sending to England, directed to Mr. Grenville, "the stamp-papers, which are lodged in the Town House." Recently arrived ships bring news of popular sympathy in England for colonial opposition to the Stamp Act. Hopes it proves untrue that royal approval has been given the Governor of Virginia for dissolving the Assembly because of its stand. Also trusts that "you officiated as Chaplain at Dover on Christmas", and that "a faithful pastor" will soon be found. Mentions Mr. and Mrs. [John] Vining, Mrs. Wynkoop, and James Wilson.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.7cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from BENJA[MIN] WYNKOOP, Philadelphia, Feb. 7, 1766.

Courts are open only in Northampton County in spite of "spirited peices [sic] lately published to rouse the People to compel the Officers immediately to open" them elsewhere. Expects a private conveyance for a letter to Mr. Inglis in two days. Obtained Irish linen for Mr. Ridgely at a reasonable price.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.7cm. x 19.6cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from [REV.] CHARLES INGLIS, New York, July 28, 1766.

Suggests that Sally [Ridgely] be sent to New York for a few weeks or months. Comments on Mr. Magaw: "I never desire to see a convert to our Church, especially to our Clergy, but from principle." Hopes Mr. Andrews is secured for the Dover mission. A revolt of certain tenants has recently been suppressed by a military force from New York City. Fears many of them will be hanged as a result of trials being held "about 80 miles from hence."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25.5cm.

DR. CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Dover, from [DR.] MATTHEW WILSON, Lewes, [Del.], Oct. 17, 1766.

Recommends James Rench as a [medical] apprentice, giving the boy's qualifications and asking the easiest possible terms, since his mother is a widow in straitened circumstances. "I wish you Unanimity, Freedom of Speech, & Prudent Zeal for your Country, in your present Assembly."

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.9cm. x 19.5cm.

REV. MR. CHARLES INGLIS, New York [City], from [DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 31, 1766.

Reports the unfavorable reaction in Dover and Kent County to the [S. P. G.'s] action in joining Duck Creek Church to Appoquinimink Mission. Says it may be productive of some schism and tells of the inroads made by the dissenters. Expresses approval of Inglis' plans for a division of the churches. "Mr. Tho[mas] Parke was this day buried, who made a Journey into Maryland and after a few days' illness dyed on his way home." Is gravely concerned over the condition of [Nicholas] who has been in poor health for some weeks. Cites the need of a Bishop in America, with the powers Mr. Inglis has proposed.

A. Df. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 31cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from [REV.] CHARLES INGLIS, New York, Jan. 18, 1767.

Approves Mr. Ridgely's stand about the division of the Dover mission. Wrote to the Society [for the Propogation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts] on the matter, quoting from his letter of October 31, and from Dr. [Samuel] Auchmuty. Believes his statement will arrive in England as soon as Mr. [Samuel] Magaw does. Inquires about Sister Sally [Ridgely]. Though the Assembly [of New York] is anxious to strike money "to give a spring to trade which languishes" it refuses to meet the Governor's restrictive conditions. People hope the English merchants will "interpose in our Behalf." His health is better than usual.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 23.7cm.

REV. MR. CHARLES INGLIS, New York [City], from [DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, [Dover], March 17, 1767.

Expresses appreciation for his efforts and those of Dr. Auchmuty in attempting to stop the separation of the Duck Creek Church from the Dover Congregation. The reason given for not separating the lower churches from Dover Mission is "that the neighbourhood is not sufficiently polite nor the income large enough, for a gentleman." Asks is there " . . . not one single Clergyman to be met with so unprovided but £150 a year might tempt him to pass some, or even all his days among a parcel of impolite, yet honest and worthy men? How many Presbyterian Parsons are contented with one third of the income of those churches?" [Nicholas] has recovered. Sally Ridgely is visiting Elkridge [Maryland]. "I am at this time moving into Mrs. Parke's House which I have taken."

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 31cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from [REV.] CHARLES INGLIS, New York, July 21, 1767.

Sends two religious pamphlets; comments on both. Promises a third relating to an American Episcopate. Latest news from England is not reassuring, as "there are some Incendiaries both there and here" but hopes "a calm will succeed the threatening storm." Heard recently from Mrs. [Thos.] Dorsey. Wishes Mr. Pryor to sell his chairs and tables or send them to him by shallop. Has been in poor health since his return from Dover.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23.5cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] CHEW, Phila[delphia], Nov. 20, 1767.

Cannot remember receiving the papers Chief Justice [John] Vining says he gave him. Comments facetiously on the matter but promises to make "the proper entry in the office." Hopes "your Turkeys are fat about Town, for I intend as usual to make some of you pay for my Christmas Dinner." Mentions Mr. [Samuel] McGaw, "poor superannuated Chas. Brockdon" and [Mr. Caesar] Rodeney.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.7cm. x 21cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from BENJA[MIN] WYNKOOP, Philadelphia, Dec. 9, 1768.

Can do nothing now "in favor of Mr. Isaac Smith" since the present Sussex surveyor may be "continued some time longer in his office." A son was born Saturday to "my Sally."

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.6cm. x 22.5cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from AB[RAHA]M WYNKOOP, Philad[elphi]a, Mar. 13, 1769.

Has shipped a crate of phials and tea to Little Creek Landing. Can send "a good Single or double Gloucester Cheese" at once or Cheshire in a few weeks.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.7cm. x 19cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from BENJ[AMIN] WYNKOOP, Philadelphia, Dec. 3, 1770.

Refers to the death of "our much & deservedly esteemed Brother" [Chief Justice John Vining, at Salem, N. J.] and to "my Sister's" uncontrolled grief. Mentions her plans for return home, his own recent ill health, and worry over circumstances connected with Jammy Wynkoop's medical apprenticeship.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.5cm. x 19.5cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] W[YNKOOP], Philad[elphi]a, Dec. 7, 1770.

Dr. P[hineas] Bond will take Jammy Wynkoop as an apprentice "with a Fee of £100 and to Board with him, . . . nearly the same . . . as if he had stay[e]d with Doct[or] Morgan." He will consider a rebate in case of death or other accidental separation, though it is not customary. Mentions the hundred guinea fee of another apprentice. Has cash to pay the fee "if you consent to these terms." Mrs. Vining is improving. "My Sally" is ill. Sends greetings to Cousin Betsy Fisher.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 15.6cm. x 19.6cm.

[DR.] C[HARLES GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from [REV.] CHARLES INGLIS, New York, Dec. 21, 1770.

Offers condolence to [John] Vining's family. Has himself found comfort in his certainty of immortality and the Divine purpose in the Universe, and his conviction that friends will meet and recognize one another hereafter. Considers publishing his recent sermon on this topic. Asks about the Governor's "disposal of the prothonotary's office" and Mr. Chew's "friendly offices to you on that Head."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16.4cm. x 20.4cm.

DR. [CHARLES GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [REV.] CHARLES INGLIS, New York, Oct. 2, 1772.

Introduces Col. DeLancey and Col. Morris, prominent residents of New York, who wish help in "chusing the proper stages" from Dover to the Virginia Capes. Has superintended "our college in this city" for almost a year during Dr. Cooper's absence. Heard from Thomas Dorsey. "It is amazing there should be so little communication between Elk Ridge and Dover." Little news of any "consequence to us" came by the last packet, though partition of Poland and peace between Russia and Turkey are expected. Mr. S. Wharton of Philadelphia has succeeded to date in the proposal to "erect a new Government on the Ohio" in spite of protests that it "will be destructive to the other Colonies." The King has not yet approved, but Wharton has influential backing.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.5cm.

DR. (CHARLES GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [REV.] CHARLES INGLIS, N[ew] York, Dec. 7, 1772.

Offers the deepest sympathy to his friend on learning of Mrs. Ridgely's recent death. Would have paid him a visit if the 200 mile winter journey could have been attempted except "at the Hazard of my Life." Shares religious reflections that helped him bear the loss of his own wife, particularly emphasizing his conviction that intimates will know one another in the next world. Mentions the Ridgely children. "Another Paper War with the Presbyterians" is anticipated in response to Dr. Witherspoon's address to residents of the West Indies "exalting his own College [of New Jersey] at the expense of others."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 15.8cm. x 20.4cm.

REV. MR. CHARLES INGLIS, New York [City], from [DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 22, 1772.

Thanks Mr. Inglis for his letter of consolation and tells his own emotions and thoughts following his wife's death. Tells of the death of his infant daughter [Mary].

A. Df. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 23.7cm.

REV. MR. CHARLES INGLIS, New York [City], from [DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 27, 1772.

Tells his friend he would rather see him now while distressed by his wife's death than any other person. Asks his aid in preparing a suitable epitaph. Mentions reading Addison's *Evidences of the Christian Religion*. Continues his discussion of whether marriage may not continue beyond death as a spiritual union. Finds the idea plausible and comforting, but puzzles over the problem introduced by remarriages. Speaks of the tender friendship that existed between him and his wife. A postscript tells that his daughter [Mary] is buried in the same grave with her mother.

A. Df. S. 3 pp. 21cm. x 33cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from [REV.] CHARLES INGLIS, New York, Jan. 28, 1773.

Enlarges on the religious principles and personal experiences touched upon in his previous letter. Speculates, with numerous scriptural references, on the conditions of life after death and association in that state with relatives and dear friends. Understands Mr. Ridgely's reaction to the death of his infant [daughter]. Has drafted an epitaph, as requested. Mentions Mr. and Mrs. [Samuel] Magaw and their expected child.

A. L. S. 8 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] WYNKOOP, Philad[elphi]a, Sept. 8, 1773.

Has sold "220 acres and the Lott at Salem." Gives details of the sale, mentioning Mr. Chew, Mr. Inglis' unexpired lease, and purchasers W[illia]m Abbott and Grant Gibbons.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.6cm. x 20.5cm.

REV. MR. CHARLES INGLIS, New York [City], from [DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 20, 1773.

Describes his continued distress at the death of his wife. Then says he has cause for gratitude considering the sickness and calamity in the neighborhood. Mrs. [William] Killen, Mrs. [Vincent] Lockerman the elder and his friend Mr. Frisby are dead. Speaks of Mr. Inglis' remarriage and hopes to have the pleasure of a visit from them; would visit them if it were not for his business and the care of his "poor little boys."

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 31.5cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from [REV.] CHARLES INGLIS, New York, May 4, 1774.

Says it is difficult to find a private conveyance for letters since moving to a more retired part of the city following his remarriage. His wife, Margaret Crooke, was the only daughter of an eminent lawyer. Their son Charles [Inglis, Jr.] born March 28 "is a fine, thriving child." Understands Mr. Ridgely's distress, and speaks of his own emotional conflicts in regard to the death of his first wife and his second marriage. "You have partly trod the same circle with me already." Supposes Charles [Ridgely, Jr.] "almost fit to enter College."

Thinks the English will punish the Bostonians summarily for the tea rebellion. Says, "I am really distressed for America." Mentions the [Thomas] Dorseys and [Samuel] Magaw.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

REV. MR. [CHARLES] INGLIS, [New York City], from [DR.] C[HARLES GREENBERRY] R[IDGELY], Dover, May 21, 1774.

Congratulates Mr. and Mrs. Inglis on the birth of their son. Recalls the memory of his deceased wife and describes her as ". . . one of the most amiable and worthiest of wives and of women." Tells of the difficulty of caring for his sons and says that Mrs. Wynkoop [his mother-in-law] not only will not care for them but has not visited him. Announces his intended marriage to Miss Nancy Moore of Moore Hall [near Philadelphia] on June 2, [1774] and invites Mr. Inglis to attend the wedding. "Nicky Ridgely is reading Latin, my other boys English. They are all really promising."

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, [Moore Hall, Montgomery Co., Penna.], from [REV.] CHARLES INGLIS, New York, Oct. 26, 1774.

Enjoys Mr. Ridgely's letters more than any but those from his brother in England. Hopes Mrs. [Ann Moore] Ridgely's illness is only the usual "seasoning to your air & climate." Wishes the couple could visit New York after leaving Moore Hall. Condemns Congress, of which he once hoped much, as being "under the Presbyterian & Independent Influence." Bostonians and other New Englanders are opposed in principle to monarchy, are as hostile to the Church of England as to Catholicism, and favor "an Independent Republick; and Lord have Mercy on those who live under it & dissent in religious or political Principles from them." Thinks the other colonists would act differently if they knew them. Tells of a recent trip with Mr. [Samuel] Magaw a hundred miles up the Hudson and back along the opposite bank. Mentions Thomas W[illia]m Moore and family, and the decision to delay his son's inoculation for fear of "his cutting teeth before he could recover."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.5cm. x 20.5cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S TILTON, Cross Roads, [Del.], Feb. 28, 1775.

He and a group of friends fear "suppression of the Press" as a result of activities involving "the letter said to be the

Kent County Extract." Urges Mr. Ridgely, as "a person of mild principles" and a member of the Committee of Correspondence to attend its next meeting and take what steps he thinks wise to avert the danger. Was unable to get a similar message to Mr. [James] Sykes, Mr. [Jacob] Stout and Mr. James Wells.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 33cm.

JOSEPH READ or THOMAS MIFFLIN, Committee of Correspondence for City of Philadelphia, from CHARLES RIDGELY, Chairman, Committee of Correspondence, Dover, Kent County on Delaware, Mar. 2, 1775.

Thanks them for trying to discover the author of an extract published in the Pennsylvania Ledger of Feb. 11th and says: "the People here are animated with a noble zeal in the general Cause, nor can we without feeling the warmest Indignation bear to think of any attempt to deprive us of our just Rights and Privileges." Refers to a letter from Mr. Jabez Maud Fisher of Feb. 21st stressing the freedom of the press saying: ". . . when this ceases to be the case Liberty will be but a name; Freedom an empty Phantom." But in this instance the Committee believes "that Liberty has been abused" and they accuse Mr. Fisher of "Calumny & Falsehood."

A. Cy. S. 4 pp. 16cm. x 19cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from JOHN CLARK, [Mispillion Hd., Del.], May 9, 1775.

At every opportunity he has shown Dr. Ridgely's letter to refute charges of disloyalty to the American cause circulating "in Mispillion" against him. "Bolitha Laws . . . said a prisbetarean in his house asserted you was the author of the Extract. . . . [and] that you had wrote to some man in England in power to in force the acts on the Americans." His enemies are disappointed to learn Mr. Holladay really wrote the document that caused the controversy. Asks that Joseph Persons be qualified as "constable in the Lower part of Mispillion . . . as the Smallpox will prevent my being at Dover this Court."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 20.7cm.

[DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from THOMAS RODNEY, Chairman pro tem. of Committee of Inspection, Dover, Sept. 12, 1775.

The Committee of Inspection summons Mr. Ridgely to appear before them at French Battell's to answer charges of expressing "sentiments unfavorable, and tending to discourage the present opposition to the slavish designs of Administration."

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 19.4cm.

CHARLES RIDGELY, JR., [Philadelphia], from [DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, [Dover], April 8, 1785.

Gives his son specific directions for a projected mercantile voyage to St. Croix. He is to consult Mr. [Benjamin] Wynkoop about business procedure and trade conditions and follow his advice if plans must be altered. Reminds Charles of insurance and letters of introduction, and [in detail] of the considerate, cautious and abstemious conduct proper for a young business man ashore and at sea. Suggests alternate plans if the St. Croix venture is abandoned.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

CHARLES RIDGELY, JR., at BENJ[AMIN] WYNKOOP'S, Philadelphia, from [DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Dover, April 10, 1785.

Cautions his son to avoid gaming in all forms. Asks him to write at every opportunity, giving full details of his trip, and to "wait on Mr. Chew's Family" in Philadelphia. "Frequency of robberies in Philad[elphi]a makes it absolutely necessary" to be in early in the evening. "Besides, a man of Business, . . . should be out of the way of Riots, Dissipation and Quarrels."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.9cm.

CHARLES RIDGELY, JR., c/o BENJ[AMIN] WYNKOOP, Philadelphia, from [DR.] CHARLES [GREENBERRY] RIDGELY, Dover, June 12, 1785.

Wishes Charles to come to Dover as soon after reaching port as business permits, and to make no new commitments without notifying him. Disapproves a West Indian or European cruise at the present time, but suggests a cargo to Havana if the trade is opened. Brother [Nicholas] was "up from Cambridge in May."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 20.3cm.

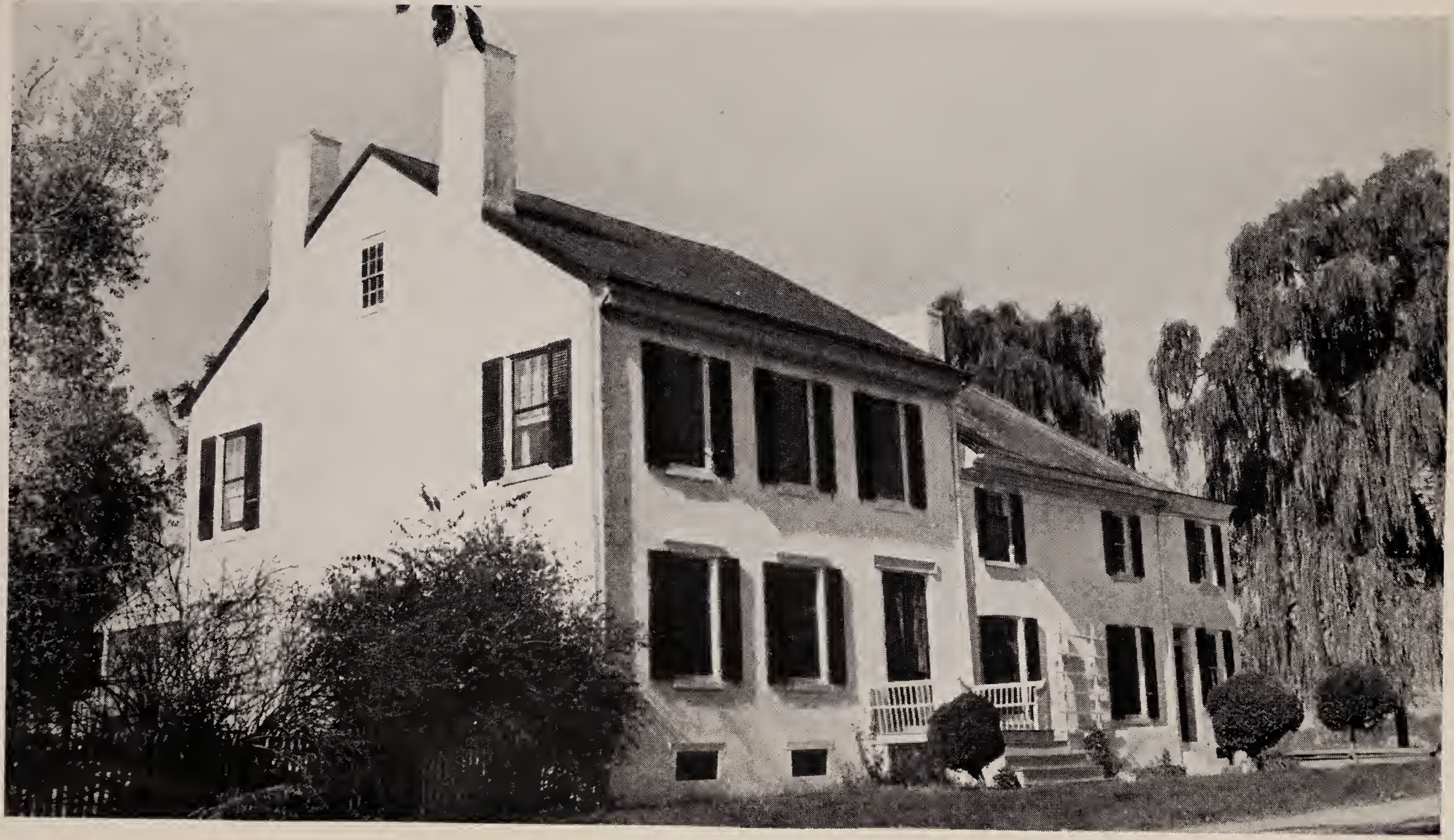
CHAPTER III

ANN MOORE RIDGELY

1742 1810

After the death of Dr. Charles Ridgely's first wife, he sought the help of his mother-in-law in caring for his orphan sons. Failing to receive the assistance he expected, he began to consider remarriage both for his own sake and the children's. Because he was a deeply religious man, and also because he could expect understanding sympathy from one who had had a similar experience, he discussed with his brother-in-law, Rev. Charles Inglis, the propriety of the step he contemplated. On May 21, 1774, he wrote to his kinsman of his engagement to their mutual acquaintance, Miss Nancy Moore, of "Moore Hall", expressing his wish that Mr. Inglis might attend the wedding on June second, at the bride's home.

Ann Moore was one of the younger daughters in the large family of Judge William and Williamina Wemyss Moore, of "Moore Hall", near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, where she had been born October 4, 1742. Her father's family was one of some prominence in England. His grandfather had been knighted by King Charles I. A brother who returned to England was chaplain to the Bishop of Rochester, and another, Daniel, became the father-in-law of Thomas Erskine, Chancellor of England. Judge Moore's father, John Moore, came to America in 1680 accompanied by his brother James, later governor of South Carolina. John Moore became a prominent merchant in New York. William Moore himself rose to a judgeship in Pennsylvania under the Proprietary family, whose claims he stubbornly defended against the rising republicanism of the Provincial Assembly. When the Revolution came, he was, as his background virtually guaranteed, a Loyalist. Since he remained in the country and was too old for active resistence, "Moore Hall" was not confiscated, but losses due to the war were at least partially responsible for its eventual sale with little profit to the many heirs. Family tradition relates that during a portion of the war the estate was occupied by American troops, one of whose officers demanded the surrender of the Judge's sword. Already an aged man, and crippled with gout, he called for the exqui-



"Eden Hill" Farm Where Ann Moore Ridgely Raised Her Family

sitely wrought sword and, with his own hands, broke off the finely worked hilt before contemptuously handing over the blade.

Mrs. Ridgely's mother, according to family records of a somewhat traditional nature, was a granddaughter of the Earl of Wemyss, of Fifeshire, Scotland. A romantic legend relates that her father, William, a younger son of James, the 4th Earl, was killed in battle shortly before she was born. Her mother, dying in childbirth, directed that the baby be christened William. To respect her wishes, insofar as possible, the feminine Williamina was devised. While still a child, Williamina Wemyss was brought to America by an uncle, and at the age of sixteen became the bride of William Moore. Family records speak of her as having been, throughout her long life, a devoted wife, and a gentle, fearless and devout woman.

Relatively little is known of Ann Moore's own life before her thirty-second year, when she married Dr. Charles Ridgely. She was reared at "Moore Hall", a beautifully situated estate, to whose gracious hospitality and happy family life all those of Mrs. Ridgely's correspondents who had known it looked back with homesick affection. They spoke of it, however, only in fragmentary allusions to some gay gatherings, a remembered piece of furniture, a favorite pudding, or a loyal old servant. These bits present only a vague background of a comfortable and cultured country home, without biographical hints. It is clear, however, that though the daughters of the household knew luxury and social distinction, they were by no means brought up frivolously. Ann's letters and accounts prove her a master of English composition, familiar with history and literature, and a competent business woman. Part, at least, of her unusual education came through formal schooling, but at home she received thorough training in the management of a household, with practical knowledge of designing and making clothing, cooking, and preserving, as well as the art of directing servants. In her father's later years she was his nurse, probably no easy assignment in view of the gouty old gentleman's imperious temperament.

The associates of Ann Moore's early womanhood, too, help one understand the sort of home she enjoyed. Among the friends of "Moore Hall" days were the poetess Elizabeth Graeme, who had been the fiancee of William Franklin and became the wife of Hugh Henry Ferguson. Another was Mary (Norris) Dickinson. Since the latter's husband, John Dickinson, is also spoken of as a friend of long standing, Ann Moore's acquaintance with him, also, probably antedates her marriage. Two brothers-in-law were likewise outstanding figures in the scholastic and scientific world of the late colonial period. One of these, Dr. William Smith, distinguished as an educator both at the University of Pennsylvania and Washington College, at Chestertown, Maryland, was surrounded in Philadelphia by an eager group of young gentlemen experimenting with native literary and artistic production. The other, Dr. Phineas Bond, was one of a group of distinguished physicians who made Philadelphia the medical center of North America in the middle eighteenth century. His brother, Dr. Thomas Bond, is credited with revolutionizing American medical instruction by introducing clinical methods.

From such a background Ann Moore came to Dover as the second Mrs. Charles Ridgely in June of 1774. A woman of strong character, vivid personality, excellent education and distinguished background, she was to be, through nearly forty years, the central figure in her husband's family. When she entered it, there were already four small sons in the household. Nicholas, the eldest, was not quite twelve years old, Charles, Jr. was ten, Abraham was eight, and John, who died at the age of nine, was then five. In time there were added to these Ann Ridgely's own five children: Williamina ("Willy"), Mary, Henry M., George W. and Ann who were born between 1775 and 1784. Her duties as wife, mother, and homemaker were consequently demanding. There are, unfortunately, no letters to give a more detailed picture of this busy period, but every indication points to its having been a happy one. The Revolution must, none the less, have made existence difficult in many ways. Though there was no fighting in the immediate vicinity, the threat of it was often close and business was seriously disrupted. Mrs. Ridgely's relatives, too, were Loyalists while her husband, though not among the more radical group, was a patriot. Little more than three years after the close of the war, and long before really settled conditions were reestablished, Dr. Ridgely died. His death, coming in November, 1785, when he had appeared to be recovering after several months' illness, left his widow stunned and grief-stricken. She rallied, however, to the new responsibilities she was forced to face. Hers became the task of educating her husband's younger children, managing his property, seeing that his household remained a home, and fostering a close relationship between his first wife's children and her own. Generally she succeeded; occasionally she failed. Whatever the circumstances of events, she left an indelible imprint on the young men and women she molded, and through them upon younger generations to whom she herself was only a dimming legend. Her correspondence, nearly all of which is subsequent to 1785, gives the details of the story.

In the spring of 1786, a few months after her husband's death, she moved to "Eden Hill" and for the remainder of her life left it only for occasional brief visits to Philadelphia or short trips to restore her frequently delicate health. The farm provided an interest in her life second only to her passion for seeing her children become worthwhile men and women, but she found time, in addition, to read the current books, form opinions on politics (while admitting such affairs were not the province of a woman), and keep up correspondence with many of her friends. The closing decade of her life was saddened by the deaths of her children George, Ann and Williamina as young adults and by the loss, in early childhood, of three of the four grandchildren born to her son Henry and his wife within her lifetime. Her own death came, after a long period of failing health, on December 20, 1810.

She was buried near her husband and children in the yard of Christ Church, Dover. Though she had always felt herself a lonely stranger in this village, where she had spent more than half her life, it is hard to believe so gifted and vital a person, and one of such cosmopolitan background, could have failed to influence, to a considerable degree, a community of which she had been so long a part.

Ann (Moore) Ridgely's correspondence comprises 545 items of exceedingly varied character. The earliest was written in 1779; the final one was written to her in January, 1811, subsequent to her death. The greater portion of the letters belong to the decade 1795-1805. Their subjects range from the children's pets and the most casual housekeeping details to education, politics, ethics, and religion, and from eulogies of President Washington to malicious personal gossip, the last, however, never from her own pen. The correspondence falls roughly into three concurrent series, one with her immediate family, one with her other relatives, and a third with friends and business acquaintances.

The series to and from her children and stepchildren is both large and informative. From it one gains an all but living acquaintance with the entire family, their everyday affairs, their likes and dislikes, friends and enemies, triumphs and tragedies. George, Henry and Ann grow from school children to be cautioned about injudicious eating, swimming and skating, to young men and women discussing the navy, the law, and the social and business activities of their Wilmington and Philadelphia friends. There are relatively few of "Willy's" letters prior to 1803, but from January of that year until March, 1804, her correspondence provides a virtual diary for sixteen months spent at the homes of the Bond, Travis and Cadwalader families in Philadelphia. Personalities, social events, family news and gossip, and discussions of books all bulk large during this interlude. Little correspondence between Mary and her mother has been preserved, but those few letters contain much explicit detail about life both in Philadelphia and Dover. Mrs. Ridgely often consulted her stepson, Nicholas Ridgely, in business and legal matters since they were joint executors of the doctor's estate and guardians of his minor children. There are, in addition, a few personal notes between them which reveal both their affectionate appreciation of each other and their mutual tendency to take offense easily. The correspondence with and about Abraham Ridgely shows an early intimacy, estrangement following a disagreement over financial obligations, and an at least partial reconciliation. Charles Ridgely, Jr., who died in 1788, is here represented by a single letter which his stepmother wrote him as he was starting on his first extended business trip, but it provides the one really vivid personal impression that unfortunate youth left in the family annals. Though many of the letters discussed above were written by or to boys and girls in their teens this is by no means true of the whole group. Nicholas was a mature man at the time the earliest of the preserved documents was written, Williamina and Mary were in their later twenties when the greater part of their letters were written, and Abraham was about thirty when the dispute with his stepmother began. Mrs. Ridgely's own letters were virtually all written from Dover. Those she received were, between 1785-1790, mainly from Chestertown, Maryland; between 1790-1798 from Newark, Delaware, Philadelphia, Carlisle and Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and after 1798 from Wilmington and Philadelphia with a scattering from Baltimore, New Castle and other spots where some member of the family might be visiting.

Another large portion of Mrs. Ridgely's correspondence consists of letters from her relatives, occasionally supplemented by drafts of her replies. Since many of these individuals appear very frequently as writers or subjects of letters, a brief genealogical note may make the abstracts more intelligible.

Her sister Rebecca Moore became the wife of Provost William Smith of the University of Pennsylvania, who is described as a talented man though one of whose personal character his relatives sometimes wrote in uncomplimentary terms. Becky (Smith) Blodgett, wife of Samuel Blodgett, who is mentioned in some passages, was their daughter. Sally Goldsborough was a granddaughter.

Williamina Moore, another of Mrs. Ridgely's sisters, married Dr. Phineas Bond, who had been Dr. Charles Ridgely's medical preceptor. The Bonds were the parents of Williamina (in the letters Mrs. John Cadwalader, widow of the Revolutionary general), Betsy (in the letters Mrs. John Travis), Rebecca, Fanny and Phineas Bond, Jr. Dr. Bond and General Cadwalader had both died before Mrs. Ridgely's preserved correspondence with their wives began. John Travis was a business man of apparent prominence in Philadelphia, since his advice was constantly sought on investments and similar matters, and the younger Phineas Bond was British consul in that city. He appears to have been a bachelor or childless widower at the period when the Ridgely family were frequent visitors in the city. Mrs. Cadwalader was the mother of two children, Thomas Cadwalader and Fanny, who became the bride of her kinsman David Erskine, later Lord Erskine.

Within the period covered by the correspondence Thomas Cadwalader married and became the father of two sons. Fanny (Cadwalader) Erskine also had a large family, among whom her namesake is the most frequently mentioned. There were also five Travis children, all referred to with some frequency.

The families of Mrs. Ridgely's brothers, James Wemyss Moore and Thomas William Moore also figure in the letters. The former is represented only by his daughter Williamina (Moore) Berrien and the son Dr. James Wemyss Moore, who came from Georgia to Philadelphia to complete his medical training. While there he became a great favorite among his relatives who were deeply grieved by his sudden death shortly after his return home. Thomas William Moore, on the other hand, wrote his sister several sprightly, informative letters and received others in return. A Loyalist, he lived successively in Nova Scotia, New Port, Rhode Island, where he was British consul for a time, and in England, where he died while awaiting a new assignment. He appears to have married twice, and certainly had a large family of whom only Janet, Mrs. Rachel Campbell and Mrs. "Willy" Moore, wife of one Sturge Moore of whom the family disapproved, appear in the Ridgely letters. Janet was a figure of considerable prominence, for she was married, while visiting "Eden Hill", to Jacob Jones, a future commodore of the United States Navy. She then lived in the neighborhood for some years, and kept in touch with the Ridgelys when staying elsewhere. Her mother, before her marriage Mrs. Ann Ayscough, her half-brother and sister Mrs. Ann Sands and Richard Ayscough are also occasionally mentioned.

The Hamilton family, frequently spoken of, though very sparsely represented in the direct correspondence, were somewhat distantly related to Mrs. Ridgely through Mrs. Hamilton, née Abigail Franks, a cousin. A single letter in the correspondence of Ann (Ridgely) duPont, Ann Ridgely's granddaughter, suggests that the Weathereds may also have been a family connection of some sort.

By far the largest part of Mrs. Ridgely's correspondence with members of the extensive Moore clan is the series between her and her niece, Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader. The very real intimacy between them indicates that the difference in their ages may not have been great. Over a period of nearly fifteen years the younger woman kept her aunt supplied with family news, general gossip, and word of the latest fashions in Philadelphia. She handled the Ridgelys' business affairs in the city, did most of their purchasing and frequently entertained one or another of them. Her few letters subsequent to 1805 are written from England where she went to join her daughter. Since Mrs. Cadwalader often wrote very explicitly of styles, manners, morals and opinions, her letters provide a wealth of data about the social scene in Philadelphia at the close of the eighteenth century.

In addition to this large family correspondence, Mrs. Ridgely also saved numerous letters from personal friends who were, so far as has been learned, unrelated to her, and a few business communications. None of these form a connected series, but Elizabeth (Graeme) Ferguson, Mary (Norris) Dickinson and John Dickinson, are each represented several times. Many of the miscellaneous letters, despite their lack of continuity, add important bits of information about the family or about business and social usages.

Ann (Moore) Ridgely's personal papers omitted from the calendar but owned by the Delaware Public Archives Commission are both voluminous and interesting. Most of them are accounts, the more than 450 items of which afford detailed information about the cost, character and quantities of food, clothing and medicines typically ordered for a well-to-do rural household. Materials are frequently specified. There are a few doctors' bills, bills for tuition and school supplies, and one for the instruction of "Miss Willy and Miss Polly" at the spinet. Papers other than accounts tell much about the management of "Eden Hill" and the other farm properties belonging to the Ridgely estate. Others indicate the humane attitude toward slaves which Mrs. Ridgely entertained. Once she spoke of herself as having been "all my life . . . very fond of scribbling." Witnesses to that taste are fragments of original essays, religious and political discussion, and poetry. She also saved clippings or longhand copies of material she admired. All of these items serve to emphasize the picture the letters draw of Ann (Moore) Ridgely as a woman of exceptional intellect, taste, judgment and character, as well as a sensitive and charming human being. It is regrettable that a portrait of her is not known to be extant.

ABSTRACTS

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] WILLIAMINA BOND, Philadelphia, Mar. 30, 1779.

[Her daughter] "Willy" [Mrs. John Cadwalader] has arrived home and is "delighted with her situation" though she regrets the distance from her mother. Prays for peace, on which "Willy's" happiness depends. Likes her husband [General John Cadwalader] who she believes has "acted from principle." Deplores the separation from her [own] son, now in England. Invites the Ridgely family to visit her. Speaks of her confidence in Dr. [Charles] Ridgely. Alludes to certain business involving Mr. . . . Hamilton, and to Phiny Bond, Becky [Bond] and "My little Girls." Fears her horse is an inconvenience and expense to the Ridgelys.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 21.3cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Cambridge, [Md.], Mar. 17, 1784.

Congratulates his stepmother on the birth of her daughter, Ann [Ridgely] and writes about the other children. Comments on the lateness of spring and on the culture of strawberries in Dorchester County. Suggests that his summer clothes may be sent to him by Mr. Stevens. Mentions Mrs. [Charles] G[oldsborough], her infant Robert [Goldsborough], and Mrs. [William] Smith.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.3cm. x 20.5cm

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] E[LIZABETH] FERGUSON, Graeme Park, [Penna.], Aug. 15, 1784.

Refers to payments on Mr. Cory's debt and comments on Mrs. Ridgely's mother, her latest child [Ann Ridgely], Mrs. Smith's grandchild and other family matters. Mentions not having seen a balloon but says, "perhaps we may exchange visits in them if their improvements are as rapid as their progress, a most fashionable vehicle no doubt it will be . . . " Sends a roll of furniture fringe of her "own spinning and weaving" for a bed and two window curtains. Explains the advantage of its coarse weave.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 15.5cm. x 20cm.

CHARLES RIDGELY, JR., [Philadelphia], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, Apr. 12, 1785.

Reminds her step-son that "prudent, oeconomical conduct" now is important to his future career. Is certain his father will assist him generously if he finds him "fixed in the pursuit of any regular kind of business." The younger children are "almost crazy to see you again. . . . You do not know how much you are beloved."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19.8cm

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [DR.] J[AMES] A[NDERSON], Chester Town, [Md.], Sept. 23, 1785.

Explains why it is impossible for him to attend Dr. Ridgely and gives his diagnosis of the illness with a suggested treatment which may be helpful to the local physician. Encloses a recipe for beef or mutton tea.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.5cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [DR.] JOSHUA CLAYTON, [near Middletown, Del.], Sept. 29, 1785.

Regrets that he cannot ride down to see Dr. Ridgely because of the serious illness of his son. "It wou'd give me great pleasure to be of any service to the Doctor, whose life I consider of the utmost importance not only to his own family but to the community."

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.5cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from REB[ECCA, MRS. WILLIAM] SMITH, [Chestertown, Md., ante Nov. 25, 1785].

Tells about "WM" whose trip was more expensive than she expected. Hopes that [William Moore's] estate will be settled soon, but it is difficult to get money at this time. Expresses concern for Dr. Ridgely's health.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 24cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from ABRAHAM RIDGELY, Chester Town, [Md.], Dec. 22, 1785.

Tells of his arrival there the previous evening after dark and of calling upon Mrs. [Rebecca] Smith. Her husband [Rev.] Dr. [Wm.] Smith was "over the bay at Annapolis." Tells of meeting Dr. [James] Anderson. Sends regards to his brothers and the children and asks that they write to him.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.5cm. x 18.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] E[LIZABETH] F[ERGUSON, Graeme Park, Penna.], Dec. 24, 1785.

Discusses the collection of money due her that was being collected by the sheriff of Kent County.

A. L. S. [fragment] 1 p. 17cm. x 16.5cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] ELIZA[BETH] FERGUSON, Graeme Park, [Penna.], Dec. 25, 1785.

Expresses her sympathy upon the death of Dr. Ridgely. Comments on Mrs. Ridgely's sisters, Mrs. [Phineas] Bond, and Mrs. [William] Smith. Tells of her own life with her faithful associate, Miss B. S[teadman].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16.5cm. x 20.2cm.

MRS. [ANN] R[IDGELY, Dover], from ELIZABETH [MRS. THOMAS] DORSEY, Elk Ridge, [Md.], Jan. 1, 1786.

A letter of condolence giving encouragement to her brother's widow.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from M[ARY, MRS. JOHN] DICKINSON, Wilmington, [Del.], Jan. 17, 1786.

An expression of sympathy upon the death of Dr. Ridgely.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from REB[ECCA, MRS. WILLIAM] SMITH, [Chestertown, Md.], Feb. 6, 1786.

Admonishes her sister to arouse herself from grief and retirement as her depression will have a bad effect upon her growing children, especially "Willey" [Williamina]. Tells of the extreme illness of Mr. [John] Cadwalader who is now improved. Mrs. Cadwalader was down to visit him and asked to be remembered.

A. L. S. [fragment] 1 p. 16.4cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from ABRAHAM RIDGELY, Chester-Town, [Md.], Feb. 11, 1786.

Is pleased to learn she is living in the country and hopes it will improve her health and Polly's. Tells of his own agreeable situation in Dr. Anderson's household. Says "General [John] Cadwalader died yesterday about 3 o'clock after an illness of a few days."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.5cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] R[IDGELY, near Dover], from ABRAHAM RIDGELY, [Chestertown, Md.], Feb. 27, 1786.

Asks his family to write. Would like to know if brother Charles [Ridgely] has bargained with Mr. Magaw for a plantation. Tells of the distress of Mrs. Cadwalader and of the arrival of Mr. L. Cadwalader and Miss Becky Bond. Says there is much sickness and death in and near Chestertown.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.5cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] R[IDGELY, near Dover], from ABRAHAM RIDGELY, Chester-town, [Md.], Mar. 7, 1786.

Explains that his letters to her must have miscarried as she wrote on February 23d that she was glad to hear of Genl. Cadwalader's recovery although he had written twice telling of his death on February 10th. He is well despite much sickness in and around Chestertown. Sends his regards to the family.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] R[IDGELY, near Dover], from REB[ECCA, MRS. WILLIAM] SMITH, [Chestertown, Md.], Mar. 7, 1786.

Reports that after she wrote on February 8th, Genl. Cadwalader's condition changed and he died Friday, February 10th at 2 P. M. She stayed with Mrs. Cadwalader until her sister Becky [Bond] came down. Within eight months Mrs. Cadwalader has lost two sons and their father. Is pleased to hear that "Willy" [Ridgely] is to go to Philadelphia and hopes that Polly [Mary Ridgely] soon recovers. Cautions Mrs. Ridgely not to exert herself overseeing the farm and asks her to visit her early in the summer.

A. L.S. 1 p. 15.5cm. x 18.5cm.

ABRAHAM RIDGELY, at DR. [JAMES M.] ANDERSON'S, Chester Town, Md., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 14, 1786.

Describes the illness of her children, George, Harry, Polly, and Nancy [Ridgely]. Says, "The small pox is all about this neighbourhood, except in Dover, and I last night heard that they intend to Inoculate there on Sunday next." Considers engaging Dr. [Edward] Miller as the family physician for inoculating the nine children in her household and asks her son's advice about this. Tells of purchasing a lot for £200 from "your Brother Charles."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from REB[ECCA, MRS. WILLIAM] SMITH, [Chestertown, Md.], Apr. 6, 1786.

Abraham [Ridgely] is expected to return to Dover on Saturday next and will tell of the school mistress expected soon. Suggests that Mrs. Ridgely may wish to send her daughter "Willy" to this school rather than to Philadelphia. Tells of Mrs. Cadwalader's return to Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from M[ARY, MRS. JOHN] DICKINSON, [Wilmington, Del.], Apr. 30 [1786].

Sympathizes with Mrs. Ridgely in the death of her husband and offers consolation. J[ohn] Dickinson is going to Kent [County] in the morning and presents an opportunity to deliver this letter. Sends regards to the children from Sally [Dickinson].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] R[IDGELY, near Dover], from ELIZABETH [MRS. THOMAS] DORSEY, Fairhill, [Md.], May 8, [1786].

Sympathizes with her sister[in-law] and hopes she is reconciled to Dr. Ridgely's death. Reports on her family's health and says her daughter, Matilda [Dorsey], is "just well of the small pox." [Note enclosed from Matilda; see next entry.]

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 33cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover], from [MISS] M[ATILDA] DORSEY, [Fairhill, Md., May 8, 1786].

Says her mother has given her permission to visit Dover if one of her cousins can accompany her there.

A. N. S. 1 p. 17.5cm. x 10.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from A[BRAHAM] R[IDGELY], Chester Town, [Md.], May 18, 1786.

Sends four pairs of small black buckles and some bear's foot [Helleborus] for Mrs. Ridgely and Dr. [Joshua] Clayton. Gives directions for growing the bear's foot and says: "You must be very cautious in using it for if not properly administered it is a very dangerous medicine, so much so that we are afraid to use it, whenever you go to give it, consult Dr. Clayton . . . " Advises against plastering the house at this season as it will crack. Tells of seeing Mrs. [Rebecca] Smith.

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 21cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Kent County, [Del.], from [MRS.] E[LIZABETH] FERGUSON, [Graeme Park, Penna.], May 24, 1786.

Consoles Mrs. Ridgely on the death of her husband and suggests that she read Jameson's *Tragedy of Edward and Elionora* or the Psalms for true comfort. Gives a statement of Mr. Bassett's account with her to be settled with Mr. George Meade. Tells of their friend, Mrs. Core who in describing Britain says: " . . . with all this superiority, which only proceeds from the Riches and opulence of its inhabitants I prefer residing in America."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from ABRAHAM RIDGELY, Chester Town, [Md.], June 18, 1786.

The school mistress recently arrived from England comes well recommended and several ladies who inspected her school are pleased with it. Suggests that Mrs. Ridgely's daughters could be taught here all they could learn in Philadelphia and at half the expense. There are very good masters of music and French and there is the probability of a dancing school soon. The girls could board with the Doctor's brother, Mr. John Anderson, and his wife at £35 each including washing. In addition they would be near Dr. Anderson, Mrs. Smith, and in a healthful part of the town. Tells of murders that have taken place there since Christmas.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 15cm. x 19cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [near Dover], from M[ARY, MRS. JOHN] DICKINSON, [Wilmington, Del.], June 26, [1786].

Compliments Mrs. Ridgely on her farming ability and asks for the recipe for cream cheese given her when she formerly lived in Kent County. Says the Dickinsons now have a little farm two miles from town and a dairy there.

A. N. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [near Dover], from M[ARY, MRS. JOHN] DICKINSON, [Wilmington, Del.], Aug. 9, [1786].

Sends a note by J[ohn] Dickinson thanking Mrs. Ridgely for the cheese recipe. Tells of the illness that has violently inflamed her lungs. Sends regards from her daughters and a little book to Mrs. Ridgely as a token of love.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 33cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from ABRAHAM RIDGELY, Chester[town, Md.], Aug. 29, 1786.

Acknowledges two letters and says that Mrs. [Rebecca] Smith has written to her and that she will soon go to Philadelphia. Is afraid that the melon seed is not out of George's [Ridgely] windpipe. Explains it was because of illness, not lack of friendship, that Mr. Chew did not stop to see her. Says he received £15 and a pair of shoes from his brother Nick [Ridgely] but a book was missing.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 15cm. x 18.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from REBECCA [MRS. WILLIAM] SMITH, [Chestertown, Md.], Aug. 31, 1786.

Tells of writing to her sister and Mrs. Cadwalader in Philadelphia. She consulted Dr. [John] Jones about the seed in George Ridgely's throat. Agrees that Mrs. Ridgely is right in objecting to an operation. Refers to a similar case in Dr. T[homas] Bond's experience and urges her sister to repeat treatments to induce sneezing and coughing.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.5cm. x 23.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from M[ARY, MRS JOHN] DICKINSON, [Wilmington, Del.], Sept. 10, [1786].

Inquires for the health of George Ridgely. Remarks about Mrs. Ridgely's ability to manage a farm and wishes they lived closer. She expects to visit Philadelphia while her husband is away as John Dickinson "is gone to Annapolis a Commis-s[ione]r from this State on acco[un]t of Trade." Is sending some seeds and tells of recovering from her illness. Says they had a most delightful house in Philadelphia where the Minister of France lived. Mr. Dickinson has sold it to his brother [Philemon] who has moved into it. "Aunt Cadwalader, Mrs. Dagworthy, Becky and Betsy, Genl. Cadwalader's three children live there and I suppose Brother's [P. Dickinson] family will spend the winter in it." Speaks of his farm near Trenton and says "he has certainly been a most Excellent manager of his affairs."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 32cm.

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, [near Dover], from REB[ECCA, MRS. WILLIAM] SMITH, [Chestertown, Md.], Oct. 26, 1786.

Approves of Mrs. Ridgely's plan to accompany her daughters to Chestertown and tells of the arrangements she made for them. Tells of Mr. Chew's efforts to get the merchandise

Mrs. Ridgely requested. Encloses copies of the handbills of Mrs. Mansell's [school]. Says Sally Chew, now Mrs. [John] Galloway, and all the family are expected down tomorrow and Sally is to stay all winter.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 33cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [near Dover], from NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, [Dover, c. Jan., 1787].

Describes the dangerous condition of the chimney of the house occupied by Joseph Kimmey and asks Mrs. Ridgely to lend him 100 of the bricks in her yard as he cannot obtain any others to rebuild the chimney.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 23.5cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover], from NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 3, 1787.

Sends all the papers for settling his father's estate, except the deeds for the children's property, so that she may finish the settlement of the estate. Mentions his going away in a few days.

A. N. S. 1 p. 21.5cm. x 12cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover], from ELIZABETH [MRS. THOS.] DORSEY, Elk Ridge, [Md.], Mar. 11, 1787.

Comments on Mrs. Ridgely's two eldest daughters [Williamina and Mary] going to boarding school. Hopes Mrs. Ridgely and her family will visit her and explains that she cannot come to Dover because she is "so tyd down by the trouble of children and servants." Tells of her five month old son, Nicholas Dorsey.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 34.3cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover], from WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Chester Town, [Md.], Apr. 6, 1787.

Writes from boarding school that her own and her sister's [Mary Ridgely] health has improved and sends word of their brother Abraham. Refers to Mr. and Mrs. Lockerman, Mrs. Wilson, Miss Gresham, sister Nancy [Ridgely], the Misses Rodney, Nancy Bassett, and Betsy Read.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 17.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] R[IDGELY, near Dover], from M[ARY, MRS. JOHN] DICKINSON, [Wilmington, Del.], May 6, [1787].

Makes friendly inquiries for Mrs. Ridgely's family and sends some seeds in exchange for some previously sent by Mrs. Ridgely.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.5cm. x 23cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] PAWLING, [near Philadelphia], May 12, 1787.

Advises her aunt of her return to Pennsylvania and describes the destruction of the woodland and buildings on her grandfather's estate ["Moore Hall"] under Mrs. Bond. Sends regards and asks Mrs. Ridgely to visit her. Asks Mrs. Ridgely to sell her a small pair of dressing drawers and a tea urn of hers at "Moore Hall."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15.5cm. x 19cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from ELIZABETH, [MRS. THOS.] DORSEY, "Fair Hills", [near Baltimore, Md.]., July 9, 1787.

Wishes her nephew [Abraham Ridgely] might stay longer, but he is about to leave. Polly [Mary Dorsey] is recovering from a severe illness. Invites Mrs. Ridgely and her daughters to visit. Mentions Nickey and Charley [Nicholas and Charles Ridgely, Jr.].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 34cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], July 20, 1787.

Asks for directions concerning Mrs. Ridgely's share of the barrel of salmon sent by Capt. [Thomas Wm.] Moore for her and Mrs. [William] Smith. Refers to an enclosed letter. The duty is 17 shillings 8 pence. [Same sheet contains draught of Mrs. Ridgely's reply, asking that her portion of her brother's gift be shipped down at the first opportunity. Inquires about costs other than the duty, repayment for which she forwards to Mrs. Phineas Bond.]

A.L. S. [1 enclosure] 1 p. [See entry below] 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, Maryland [sic], from THO[MA]S WILLIAM MOORE, Horton, N[ova] Scotia, June 1, 1787.

Is sending his sister [Mrs. Ridgely] some salmon, "the only present this country affords worth sending." He and his family are "well and decently situated under that blessed Government which I fought for . . . and which has amply rewarded my services." Inquires for the Ridgely family. Expects his daughter "Willy" [Moore], her husband [Sturge Moore], his three grandchildren and his daughter Janet [Moore] to arrive shortly from England.

A. L. S. 2 pp. [Enclosed with entry above] 18cm. x 22.5cm.

CAPT. THOMAS WILLIAM MOORE, Horton, Nova Scotia, from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Aug. 10, 1787.

Thanks her brother for his letter, tells of the death of her husband and describes her five children, Williamina, Mary, Nancy, Harry and George. Says her stepson, Charles, plans a trip to Nova Scotia. Sends regards to his family and thanks him for the salmon in return for which she will send him some products from her farm.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] R[IDGELY, Dover], from REB[ECC]A, [MRS. WM.] SMITH, [Cambridge, Md.], Mar. 31, 1788.

Will deliver Mrs. Ridgely's letter to her husband as soon as he returns from Philadelphia. Is glad the Ridgely family is well. Believes her own daughter Becky [Smith], now nearly sixteen, will recover from her present poor health as soon as she attains her full growth. Comments on her lack of skill at gardening; "all notability in that way fell to you."

A. L. S. 1 p. 15cm. x 20.7cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from N[ICHOLAS] R[IDGELY, Dover, ante Oct. 15, 1788].

Explains certain circumstances in regard to the payment of a note owed by James Cummins and Charles Robinson. Identifies Cummins as the man who "used to make your wooden cups & saucers in the War." Thomas Keith will endorse a proposed new note.

A. N. S. 1 p. 25.3cm. x 20cm.

[Mrs. Ridgely added a memorandum concerning the whereabouts of Mr. Keith's letter.]

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] PAWLING, [n. p.], Mar. 29, 1789.

She and her husband will soon move to a home of their own "within 17 miles of town", to her great delight. Hopes for a visit from her aunt [Mrs. Ridgely]. Wonders whether "Willy" [Ridgely] has arrived in Philadelphia. Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond is recovering rapidly after a serious illness. Mentions her own mother and her father-in-law. Dr. [Wm.] Smith "is got in fav[o]r again in Philad[elphi]a."

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 21cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S MAY, Wilmington, [Del.], Apr. 20, 1789.

Has not succeeded in obtaining an option for Mrs. Ridgely on the farm of Mark Elliott, deceased. Knows of no other available place "near enough to live upon and send the children to school at the same time." Asks if she will consider living in town and purchasing a farm farther in the country. His wife has recovered. "General Washington lodged in town last night and this morning about sunrise sett off for Phila-d[elphia] & New York attended by a number of the Gentlemen of this Place to the line of the State where he will be met by the City Light Horse, etc."

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.8cm. x 23cm.

[Nicholas Ridgely adds a note on the cover, apologizing for having opened and read the letter before delivering it.]

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] P[AWLING, near Philadelphia], June 6, 1789.

Has moved to her new home near Schuylkill and the Gulph. Greatly enjoys it despite some inconveniences. Inquires whether "Willy" [Ridgely] has arrived in Philadelphia, and reminds her of a promise made shortly after her marriage. Refers to her mother and husband.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.4cm. x 21.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia, c. 1790].

Sends their account, which should be carefully checked for errors. Wishes one of the Ridgely girls, now sleeping beside her, had safely completed her journey home. Lists Muff and Tippet, £3:15, and hat, 8 shillings 4 pence.

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 32.5cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from MRS W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia, c. 1790].

Purchased needed clothing for "Willy." Discusses her allowance and laundry bill, and their accounts. Speaks of Mr. [Nicholas] Ridgely and Mrs. Smith (née Oswald).

A. N. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 17cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S MAY, Wilmington, [Del.], Jan. 16, 1790.

Complications following an attack of influenza have prevented his visiting Dover. Clover seed is £3:10 per bushel, and scarce. Asks if he shall purchase for Mrs. Ridgely at that price or wait. Wheat is about 8 shillings 4 pence and corn will probably be 3 shillings 9 pence or 4 shillings. Refers to Mrs. May and the Ridgely children.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 33.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from ELIZABETH [MRS. JOHN] BANNING, [Dover], Sept. 11, 1791.

Has decided to lay in only half the supply of coffee and loaf sugar she had intended, as she has heard they are high now. Hopes the change causes no inconvenience. Sends regards to the family.

A. N. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 15cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [DR.] EDWARD MILLER, [Dover], Dec. 20, 1791.

Requests a private interview, preferably "tomorrow afternoon", in order to "address to you some particular conversation."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 23.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. JOHN] TRAVIS, [Philadelphia], Apr. 14, [c. 1792].

Will greatly miss "Willy" [Ridgely] if she goes home. Does not believe she will stay, though Mamma [Mrs. Phineas Bond] wishes to take her to "Moore Hall." Miss [Elizabeth] Freeman is returning to Dover. Their brother sails soon for England for a few months. Miss Smith recently married a widower with children. Knows of few except Mrs. Ridgely who in such a situation have given general satisfaction. Plans to stay in town most of the summer. "We have a number of weddings in agitation", among them those of "the two youngest Cadwaladers." Fanny Cadwalader is improving but is still frail. Supposes Polly [Mary Ridgely] is glad to be home. Sends her a message from Mr. Thornton.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 23cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia, ante May 2, 1792].

Fears she may not see "Willy" before her departure, and that Mrs. Ridgely is offended by some occurrence involving her attempt to control the conduct of Polly [Mary] or "Willy" [Ridgely] while in Philadelphia. Hopes Mary's trunk was properly packed, as it was sent from Mrs. Trudeau's [school]. Will send her account. Dr. Rush has attended Polly. Wishes to rent "Abel James' place on the Frankfort Road for the summer." Refers to her own children and [her sister] Betsy [Travis]. Will try to purchase some unusually good tea from Callaghan. Assures Mrs. Ridgely of her willingness to serve her or her children.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], May 2, [1792].

The letter and asparagus arrived safely. Is "not yet quite done with the House in 2d Street which has been a fatiguing job." Betsy . . . and Maria . . . are to be married tomorrow and Becky Smith soon. Dislikes such a crowd as will attend the first. Alludes to Polly's [Mary Ridgely] recent departure, and to "Willy" [Ridgely] and her [own daughter] Fanny [Cadwalader]. Her brother recently sailed [for England] and would like to have taken Tom [Cadwalader] to leave him in school there.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Philad[elphia], June 10, [c. 1792].

Hopes Mrs. Ridgely's illness has been "an hysterical disorder" and less serious than she fears, but she is concerned about her. Begs her to visit, bringing the girls, since she can accommodate all comfortably. Sends 2 pounds of tea at 8 shillings 8 pence. Inquires about the children's stockings and muslin recently sent. Handkerchiefs made of this material, when "clear starched, . . . look like book muslin." Refers to children of both families.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 21.5cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover], from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Philadelphia, ante June 20, c. 1792].

Received the order for stockings. Thinks cotton is satisfactory for year-round wear, and for boys they are "the genteelest stockings" obtainable. Has procured ten pair in large, medium and small sizes. "Four p[ai]r lasts a year." Sent some muslin, a remarkable bargain.

A. N. U. 2 pp. 21cm. x 17cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], Aug. 26, Sept. 12, [1792].

Is alone, none of her family having yet returned from out of town. Had great difficulty with the delivery of things for Mrs. Ridgely, which were mishandled at the George Tavern and finally sent by Joe Tiger's shallop. Sends Mr. [Nicholas] Ridgely a message about Miss McCall who has "had more Lovers than any Lady that ever came to Philad[elphi]a . . . and has great folks in her train. Mr. Vanberkel, the Dutch Resident, is one." She is accused of being a coquette. Has sold her [own] house for £6000, cash if she wishes. Her brother is now convinced the British government will make no restitution for damage done to "Moore Hall" during the Revolution, despite [Wm. Moore] her grandfather's loyalty to the Crown. No claims have ever been accepted from individuals who remained in America unless they were displaced public officials or claims were filed while troops were still in the country. Aunt [Rebecca, Mrs. Wm.] Smith insists she notified the Ridgelys of Becky's [Rebecca Smith] intended marriage to [Samuel] Blodgett. Alludes to the death of another Smith daughter, "Willy" [Mrs. Charles Goldsborough]. Accepts the offered peach brandy, asking that it be sent by a reliable person. Betsy Loockerman is "a well-behaved, sweet little girl." Doubts Miss [Elizabeth] Freeman will return to Dover when Mr. Nixon goes. If she should, suggests she "do a . . . bit of fillagree work on a pillbox . . . to give the sisters at Bethlehem some idea of it." Wishes she could procure for Mrs. Ridgely a copy of "a beautiful novel", *Celestine*. Is glad "Willy" is visiting Chester Town, [Md.]. Alludes to an expected child of [Dr.[A[braham] Ridgely and to the disappointment of [her own sister] Betsy [Travis] at having no children. Ann Hamilton is engaged to Mr. Lisle. Billy [Hamilton] is grieved at parting with her, but has consented in writing. Mrs. Smith, daughter of Mrs. Isard, is dead. Gives an account of her [own] children, Tom and Fanny [Cadwalader] and speaks of other members of her family, Her brother sends gifts from England, where he will remain till spring.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 20.5cm. x 32cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from REB[ECC]A [MRS. WM.] SMITH, [Philadelphia], Sept. 13, 1792.

It is not possible for her to do what Mrs. Ridgely asked in one letter, but she believes an Episcopal clergyman can be found [for Dover] if he will be "received without opposition" and adequately paid. Will take the necessary steps to procure a candidate. Complains of being cold all summer. "Don't let George [Ridgely] preach." Had great difficulty in dissuading "my Charles" [Smith] from that career. Hopes there is a good school for the boys in Dover, or that they will be soon sent elsewhere to one. Alludes to her "Angel Babe", [probably Sally Goldsborough] with her a year now, who is unspoiled, healthy and happy. Prays that "dear Nancy" [her sister, Mrs. Ridgely] may be spared "the sorrows that wring my sad heart."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 32.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Oct. 15 [1792].

A cover for her letter of Aug. 26, Sept. 12, 1792 for which Mr. Nixon failed to call, as Betsy Loockerman had promised he would. The keg has not been sent. Her brother [Mr. Phineas Bond] does not plan to return this season.

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 32cm.

[Above the address is a note from Nicholas Ridgely, saying the letter was handed to him "by a young man from Grog-Town with whom Gen'l Dickinson left it." Inquires how Mrs. Ridgely and "Willy" are and apologizes because court business has kept him from calling.]

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [REV.] WM. SMITH, Philad[elphi]a, Dec. 28, 1792.

In response to the requests of [Mrs. Ann] and Mr. N[icholas] Ridgely to assist in finding a clergyman, he recommends "our cousin Richard Moore", who is willing to move from Staten Island. He will visit Dover and preach [Jan. 8, 1793].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 31.5cm.

[A note in Ann Ridgely's writing, apparently to Nicholas Ridgely, states the Rev. Mr. Moore has not appeared. Hopes he may still come. Asks that the letters be left with Polly Brereton "if you cannot send them out."]

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] E[LIZABETH] FREEMAN, Philadelphia, Jan. 9, 1793.

Received her note by Dr. [Edward] Miller, but she has heard nothing of the letters sent by Mr. White. Yesterday Mr. Blanchard made a balloon ascension from the jail yard before an enormous crowd. Seats cost $5.00. "Mrs. Brodeau and all her family were at Mr. Oeller's." The balloonist took with him a little black dog, cold chicken, wine and biscuits, and some bottles for samples of air for Dr. "Vistar" [Caspar Wistar] to study. He landed successfully. Refers to the unseasonably mild winter, the presence of Miss Hazlet and other Dover visitors, and to a doll to be sent later. Wishes to be remembered to Harry, George and Nancy [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.8cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from JAMES SYKES, [Dover, c. April, 1793].

Asks for a statement of Dr. Ridgely's account against his father's estate so that he may settle it and discharge his [administrator's] bond. Would like "six or eight bushels of rye to sow."

A. N. S. 1 p. 16.8cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from J[AMES] SYKES, [Dover, c. April, 1793].

Will comply with Mrs. Ridgely's request within a few days. Nicholas Ridgely has promised to meet with them whenever Dr. Charles Ridgely's account against Mr. [James] Sykes is ready for settlement. Has been occupied with "some very alarming cases in surgery."

A. N. S. 1 p. 16.5cm. x 20cm.

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] E[LIZABETH] FREEMAN, Philadelphia, Apr. 12, 1792 [sic; 1793].

Tells of her disappointment upon learning that an offered seat in a carriage to Dover was for several weeks later. Her cousin has asked her to come to England, which she has decided to do. Mr. Sitgreaves has taken passage for her on the *George Barcley*, sailing in five or six weeks. Mrs. Wallace and Miss Alexander will be fellow-passengers. Thanks Mrs. Ridgely for her kindness, promises to write at length, and asks permission to still call her "my dear mother." Mentions the three youngest Ridgely children. Hopes the boys may some day see England, as their mother has suggested they might. Encloses an account for bonnets, points, a book for Harry, thread, scissors, a dozen stone jars and a muslin handkerchief.

A. L. S. [1 enclosure] 3 pp. 18.8cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MISS E[LIZABETH] FREEMAN, Philadelphia, Apr. 27, 1793.

Takes an affectionate leave of Mrs. Ridgely "before I quit Philadelphia forever." Goes aboard the ship Sunday. Names the passengers. Her friends believe her wise in going, since it may improve her health and hasten the settlement of her affairs. Explains various business details. Mentions Mr. Sitgreaves and Mr. Biddle. Is greatly excited by her preparations. Promises to write from the [Delaware] Capes if not too ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.8cm. x 23cm.

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, near Dover, c/o MRS. CADWALADER, Union St., Philadelphia, from [MISS] ELIZABETH FREEMAN, London, England, June 14, 1793.

William[ina]'s letter is intended for all. Has been constantly entertained in London and finds the people pleasant, but admits homesickness and begs for news of home. Has secured "a wax baby for Nancy that opens and shuts its eyes by pulling a wire, at 2 [shillings] 6 pence sterling." "Sending letters . . . to America will be a great expense if you do not take care in folding them." Will soon join her cousin in Newcastle [England]. Unexpectedly met Mrs. Bache and "the Miss Whites whom I knew in Philadelphia." Stays with a "very genteel" family who keep a carriage and several servants. Speaks highly of Capt. Collet.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.7cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MRS.] E[LIZABETH] FERGUSON, "Graeme Park", [Penna.], Nov. 9, [17]93.

Offers condolence on the death of Mrs. Ridgely's sister, Mrs. [Wm.] Smith, with whom she was intimate in girlhood. Recalls happy hours at "Moore Hall." Sympathizes with Mrs. Bond. Saw "Willy" recently in a Philadelphia shop and at once recognized her as "a member of your family." Thinks she resembles both Miss Bond and Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett. A daughter of [Rev. John Miller], formerly of Dover, spoke of Mrs. Ridgely as "the best farmer . . . [for] miles around." Moves soon to "Graeme Hall."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18.4cm. x 23cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [DR.] JAMES M. ANDERSON, [Chestertown, Md., ante 1794].

Answers a letter addressed to [Dr.] Abraham [Ridgely], who is visiting his relatives at Elk Ridge. Though he prescribes reluctantly where he has not seen the patient, he describes in detail his usual treatment of children's fevers by bleeding, laxatives, emetics, a mercurial dose if worms are suspected, Carolina pinch root tea, "antimonials in small doses, . . . blisters to the extremities", and possibly Bark [quinine]. Speaks highly of Dr. [Edward] Miller's ability and recommends that his advice be followed. Hopes the children are not as ill as she fears.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.4cm.

WILLIAM THOMSON, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Kent Co., Jan. 30, 1794.

Wishes to place her two sons under Mr. Thomson's "care and tuition at New-Ark" if terms are the same as those offered Mr. Gardener for his brothers. Believes the boys have "not been spoiled by indulgence" and wants their conduct carefully supervised. Is anxious to enroll them promptly.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 20cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from WILLIAM THOMSON, Newark, [Del.], Feb. 13, 1794.

Will accept Mrs. Ridgely's two sons as students and boarders "on the same terms as the two Master McMullans." Boarding is generally $60.00 yearly, but Mr. Gardener pays $20.00 additional for each of his brothers "to have them more immediately under my notice." Tuition is £5. Payments are to be made semi-annually. Asks that the terms be kept confidential.

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Philadelphia, c. Mar., 1794].

Has purchased three tablecloths, which her mother thinks "cheap and good", bombazet, and four pair of short gloves for the girls. "The times are sad; good People think there is news of such a nature as to prevent a war but I fear too many wish it."

A. N. U. 1 p. 20.8cm. x 27cm.

WILLIAM THOMSON , Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 3, 1794.

Commits her sons to the Thomson family's care, giving full authority to discipline, to purchase necessities, and to choose a physician in case of need. Does not wish them indulged and is anxious that they become "virtuous, useful, and respected" men.

A. Cy. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 20cm.

GEORGE W. RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 9, 1794.

Hopes the boys are "well and happily situated [at school] and . . . as attentive as possible to your books." Tells George about his lamb and dogs, and about [Negro boys] Cyrus and Frank. Mentions a recent drowning. "I hear that a little Ginn Toddy kept up your spirits and made you merry as a cricket" during the cold trip to Newark. Is sending a ball, "a very good bouncer."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.8cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Newark, [Del]., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 9, 1794.

Is relieved to learn that both boys arrived at Newark safely despite the bad weather. Cautions them to be considerate boarders in Mr. Thomson's home. Is sending balls for each, "made out of the feet of the stockings George went up in", which had to be replaced. Mentions Mr. Gardener, Jeffry, John Wilds and Mr. Kaniday, whose courtesy to her sons she appreciates.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.5cm. x 20cm.

HENRY and GEORGE RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 13, [17]94.

Sends some "Naples Biscuit" with letters and the two balls. Miss Matilda Sykes will soon marry Mr. Caverly. Speaks highly of Mrs. James Derrah "of Duck Creek X roads", who died suddenly, leaving five small children. Mentions Mr. Montgomery and her [own] brother. Suggests using the towels in which biscuits are wrapped as packages for shirts at vacation.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.8cm. x 20cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Newark, Del.], Mar. 15, 1794.

Arrived after considerable difficulty. "The little horse gave out" near Black Bird. Mr. Cassidy took the carriage several miles with his horse, and at Middletown they hired a mount and rode. Lent John Wild a French Crown.

A. L. S. 1 p. 13.5cm. x 24.5cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [DR.] EDW[ARD] MILLER, Dover, Mar. 29, 1794.

Plans to leave Monday for New London [Penna.] and will be glad to take letters or packages to the Ridgely boys at Newark.

A. N. S. 1 p. 16.4cm. 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Newark, Del., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 30, 1794.

Is anxious over her sons' failure to write. Rev. Mr. [George] Dashiell and [Dr.] Abraham [Ridgely] are both moving their families to Dover. Describes "Sayre", a well-behaved little English boy who wants to teach French to Williamina and Mary. Inquires if summer clothing can be made at Newark, and if they have asparagus yet.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.7cm. x 20cm.

GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 30, 1794.

Is worried at not hearing from her sons since they left home four weeks previous. Sends a dollar spending money, suggesting that it be spent for a book rather than "gingerbread or Balywax." Most of the household, white and black, is at church. Wishes her sons to devote Sunday forenoons to Bible reading when not "attending Public Worship." Mentions the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Dashiell in Dover. [Dr.] Abraham [Ridgely] is also expected.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.8cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia, post March, 1794].

Apologizes for forgetting the tablecloths. Asks if "the Newark your sons are at" is in New Jersey. Acknowledges the prescription, but is glad to say she has recovered "after taking 4 spoonsful of gum querchum [Quercus (oak)].

A. N. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 21cm.

MR. . . . NEIL, [Dover], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Apr. 10, 1794.

Requests that he remove his furniture from the remaining two rooms of the Ridgely house as soon as possible so that Dr. Abraham Ridgely and his family may occupy it. Refers to "whitewashed rooms", "bricks lay'd in the Kitchen", and other renovations.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, New Ark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Apr. 15, 1794.

Sends money for settling their bills at Newark. Horses are being sent the following morning to bring the boys home for vacation. Mr. Ham has offered George a seat in his sons' chaise. Wishes him to accept only if it crowds no one. Begs her sons "to be very careful how you ride", cautioning them about speed, dangerous bridges, and the like.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.5cm. x 19.7cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from Mrs. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], May 5, [1794].

Discusses the gloves sent recently for the girls and the gown for a neighbor. " . . . Since the Embargo . . . all kinds of Goods (except East India) have risen greatly." With luxuries this is "a slight Evil for we can buy the less" but it is a real grievance that "Butter, Meat and all kinds of marketting [have] long been double and treble prices." The burden falls hardest on those living on fixed incomes, for wages have risen "in proportion." "You and I ought to pray for Peace, as much, with us, depends on the price of wheat." Fears she will leave her children "almost beggars" if there is war, though they now are, "if things are not turned upside down by Wicked Politicians, very well off and if I live a few years longer [they] will have ample fortunes." Invites the Ridgelys to visit when she is settled. Moves June 18th. "Though at the world's end almost as to Distance from my friends I shall have a Noble House to make my Children happy in." Hopes "Willy" [Ridgely] will never be kept in Dover after July. Dr. [Wm.] Smith "has moved his family to the Falls and given his House up to the Colledge" [University of Penna.]. Says spirits of hartshorn takes the spots from gloves. The bill for the tablecloths, bombazet and gloves is enclosed.

A. L. S. [1 enclosure] 3 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

WILLIAM THOMSON, [Newark, Del.], from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], May 10, 1794.

Thanks Mr. Thomson for his kindness to her sons, but asks him to be as firm with them as with his own. Asks if it is advisable for Henry to continue Greek, started at Dover, and if George should continue pre-professional studies or receive instead "a good and useful English education"; wishes them both prepared as soon as possible for their professional studies since Henry is nearly fifteen. Will purchase feathers for Mrs. Thomson if she approves the price quoted.

A. Df. U. 3 pp. 16.8cm. x 20cm.

GEORGE W. RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], May 18, 1794.

Was pleased to receive a recent brief letter. Urges George to form the habit of letter-writing. Brother Nick and sister Polly are leaving for N[ew] Castle; "she will contrive to send this letter and the Ball."

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.8cm. x 20.4cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], June 16, 1794.

Has just returned from a two-weeks' visit to Philadelphia which greatly benefitted her health, but is glad to be home. Says her own farm "looks better in my eyes than any other that I saw in my jaunt." Mentions Ned Tilghman, Tom Cadwalader, Franks Hamilton, Dick and Jasper McCall. Will send the buckles and nankeen bought in Philadelphia, with directions for making. Is making six new linen shirts for each. Polly [Mary Ridgely] sends George "a ribbon for his hair" and Henry a purse.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.8cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], June 17, 1794.

"The coffee and sugar in a Box and the cask of sugar" are ready to go by Captain Buck[master]. Inquires "how you got home." Betsy [Travis] is recovering rapidly. Apologizes for her note, written "on the kitchen dresser with kitchen pen, ink and paper."

A. N. S. 1 p. 21.5cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philad[elphia], July 1, 1794.

Writes hastily to report the articles ordered are being assembled to go by Buckmaster's shallop. Has not completed the Vandyke for Nancy because of the press of other duties but promises it soon. Alludes to Mary and "Willy." Encloses their account. Speaks of her mother's visit to "Moore Hall to see all matters arranged before bidding it an everlasting adieu."

A. L. S. [1 enclosure] 3 pp. 20cm. x 26cm.

[HENRY M. and GEORGE W.] RIDGELY, [Newark, Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], July 19, 1794.

Has been unable to find the means of sending letters or the boys' allowance of a dollar a month each. Urges them to be frugal. Warns them "not to eat great quantities of fruit, particularly be cautious ab[ou]t Pears and apples" which can cause fatal digestive disturbances.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 29cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, German Town, [Penna.], July 20, 1794.

Cannot go in town to do Mrs. Ridgely's errands because Betsy [Travis] is ill, but has sent word to have them done. Refers to a "Wonderful Lamp." Is sorry to hear Ann [Ridgely] is ill. Chides Mrs. Ridgely for staying in an unwholesome climate when she could as well live at Wilmington with "health and good society" if she were not "a vain Woman and proud of [her] Farm." Alludes to Mrs. B[lodgett], whom she will assist in need but with whom she will not be on intimate or friendly terms. Mentions the Ridgely children and Mrs. Cadwalader. Says the Vandyke [collar] will soon be done.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 23cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia, July 23, c. 1794].

Has her new home sufficiently in order to entertain the Ridgely family, though the workmen are not quite finished. Is delighted with it and all the family now approve her choice except Becky [Bond], who "would rather have me live in a loft of a stable in or near Chestnut Street than here." Betsy Travis is not recovering. Her child is interesting and attractive. "Little Sally" [Goldsborough] is with her. Regretted her inability to attend Mrs. Wilson's funeral. Has been to none since Mrs. Freeman's death about eleven years ago.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 17cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Aug. 9, 1794.

Has had no opportunity to send a letter to Newark since June. Encloses $2.00 spending money for each boy. Tells of the death of William Lister, the birth of Hetty Harper's son Charles, the illness of Mr. Dashiell's son, the rumored marriage of Major Patton and Mrs. Loockerman, a fight between Mr. Nixon and John Pemberton, and the difficulty of getting her own new stable finished. Comments on Mr. Dashiell's extravagant real estate dealings and his general ignorance "in worldly matters." Daniel Mifflin has moved to Darby for his wife's health, and Thomas Sipple is building a house.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.5cm. x 20.3cm.

GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Aug. 9, 1794.

The first opportunity since June of having a letter delivered has been offered. Is sending two dollars pocket money, "a large sum for you to be possess'd of at one time." Cautions against spending it thoughtlessly. Fears he will "get the ague again" during an expected vacation but reflects it may "help you to grow fast." Tells of his "Dogs, Lambs and ev'ry thing you love", and Ann's new kitten. Mentions Negro children Arria, Sarah, Jim and Andrew.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.8cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Dover], Aug. 20, 1794.

Advises her accepting Mr. D[aniel] Mifflin's offer regarding payment of a debt, and explains certain legal phases. He has been miserable [with a cold] for some time. Would enjoy a visit from Mrs. Ridgely and the girls if they can come today or tomorrow.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 12cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from THOMAS WM. MOORE, New Port, R. I., Aug. 25, 1794.

Received Mrs. Ridgely's letter of [Aug.] 7 sent by Jos[eph] Miller. Acknowledges $10.00 for the purchase of cheese, which will be shipped at the first opportunity.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.5cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], Aug. 27, 1794.

Was called back to town by the illness of Fanny [Bond] who is suffering from pains in the head, diagnosed as rheumatism. Other relatives are well. Is sorry Ann [Ridgely] has been so ill. The "perl" was expensive, and only six yards could be found. Mrs. Ridgely's "Images at 'Moore Hall' " which would not bear moving, have been sold for 17 shillings 6 pence. The saddle was not sold. Discusses other "Moore Hall" business. Says she could often obtain bargains for the Ridgely girls if she knew their needs. Thinks oil bought at Harper's is good.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.4cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Philad[elphi]a, Aug. 27, 1794.

Will shop for what Polly [Ridgely] wants and send it as soon as possible. Pressingly invites the Ridgely family, including the boys, to visit her. Argues against spending August in [Kent County's] dangerous climate, though the fall can often be passed there safety. Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett has a son, to be named George.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 33.5cm.

HENRY MOORE RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Sept. 3, 1794.

Received his letter and George's by way of Duck C. X. Roads [Duck Creek Cross Roads]. Hopes Mr. Thomson's intended transfer to Dickinson College proves a profitable one. Considers sending the boys with him and wishes to know all particulars before deciding. The distance, 120 miles, and dreadful roads reported by Dr. [Edward] Miller and Dr. [James] Tilton are the chief objections. Sister Polly [Mary] is recovering from bilious fever. Mentions Mr. [Geo.] Dashiell, Mr. [Charles] Hillyard, and an error in calculating Mrs. Thomson's bill for feathers. "Begin y[ou]r letters to me

'D[ea]r Mother' or 'Hon[ore]d Mad[a]m' as you please." Will send for them at vacation time. An added note dated September 15 mentions another accompanying letter.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.5cm. x 20cm.

GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, at MR. WM. THOMSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Sept. 3, 1794.

Says his cousin Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett's infant has been named for him. Mentions Miss Killen's death, a drowning referred to in George's last letter, and a rumored match between Bill Collins and Harriett Sykes. The Dover Light Horse are to "exercise in one of my front fields" Saturday. Regrets the Wilmington militia captain's affront to the Newark company. Hopes the Nation can remain at peace. Invites the two older Thomson boys to visit Dover when the Ridgely boys return, and asks if the latter wish to accompany Mr. Thomson to Carlisle, [Penna.], "a hundred and twenty miles distant from Dover."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.8cm. x 20.5cm.

MISS [REBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], from MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Sept. 6, 1794.

Suggests magnolia tea for Fanny's [Bond] headaches; inquires for a large looking glass from the "Yellow Parlour" at "Moore Hall." Discusses reframing it in mahogany with a gold edge and bead. Requests from her father's estate "a blue and white cotton & woolen yarn coverlid wove like carpeting, double, with a fringe round it and a blue and white stamp'd cotton coverlid with birds &c. on it" to match one she already has so that two beds can be covered alike.

A. Df. U. 4 pp. 16.5cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from WILLIAM THOMSON, Newark, [Del.], Sept. 17, 1794.

Thanks Mrs. Ridgely for the punctual discharge of her sons' account. Says school will reopen after vacation under his successor, Mr. Burton, "a clergyman from Scotland." Board at Carlisle last spring was £30 yearly or higher, tuition was the same as at Newark. Cannot promise to board the Ridgely boys if they are sent there since he does not yet know the size of his house. Does not know whether Mr. Burton can accommodate them if they remain at Newark.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.8cm. x 33.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from THOMAS WM. MOORE, New Port, R. I., Sept. 26, 1794.

Has shipped six Narraganset cheeses to her. Was surprised his sister ordered them instead of making her own, since he remembers her as famous for them at "Moore Hall." Repeats his invitation to her and her daughters. Can himself go nowhere in the United States except on official business. The [consular] service is his "pride and joy." Is glad he chose the Rhode Island post instead of Baltimore, for though he has had his "hands full with a parcel of Turpitudinous Animals" he believes he has done well, and enjoys the climate and society. Inquires about "our Kinsman Collonel J. Wemyss." Asks jestingly if Mrs. Ridgely plans to remarry, and continues facetiously on the subject of second marriages. Mentions his wife and daughter Janet [Jane Moore]. Hopes the young Ridgelys will not "curse their old Uncle" if the cheeses turn out to be "d—d bad."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.8cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Sept. 29 [1794].

Apologizes for the delay in sending the gown for Polly [Mary Ridgely] and hopes the one selected will do. Because yellow fever is reported in town, Sally [Goldsborough] and Tom [Cadwalader] have been sent to the country and she herself is considering going to Germantown. Will move her entire household, "as it is a point of conscience with me to leave nobody if I cannot trust myself." Mr. Dean, Mrs. Sellars and "Warner the Bonecutter near the College" have died of the fever. Encloses [Thomas] Smith's letter about Dickinson College. He and his family now live in Philadelphia and Richard [Smith] "at Sunbury in the back country." Mentions the Merediths, [Mr.] Smith "who married Ann Young", Betsy Vining, [servants) Jem and Polly, [merchants] Whitesides and Colliers, Dr. Bass and Dr. Rush. Supposes the boys will not be sent to Carlisle before "the Insurgints are quiet."

A. L. S. [2 enclosures] 3 pp. [See entry below] 21cm. x 33.5cm.

MRS. [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], from THOMAS SMITH, Philadelphia, Sept. 4, 1794.

Is glad to supply the information about Dickinson College. Latin, Greek, "Mathematics, with their application to Astronomy, Surveying, Geography, etc., moral Philosophy, Logic, etc." are taught. Dr. [Charles] Nesbit is strict in his supervision, and the students well-behaved. Carlisle has a healthy climate, and though many Southern students are enrolled, no pupil has died. Various prominent residents will interest themselves in Master Ridgely's progress and conduct if he is enrolled, and they will report at intervals to his mother. Board in genteel households ranges from £30 to £35 per year.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.6cm. x 33.5cm.

[Enclosed with above letter. An added note, dated Sept. 15, 1794, explains that he called twice without finding Mrs. Cadwalader in, and has left the letter with Charles Smith for later delivery.]

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Philadelphia], Oct. 26, [c. 1794].

Offers to exchange the chintz Mary [Ridgely] did not care for. Sally Goldsborough greatly appreciated Mrs. Ridgely's present. Considers the child neglected by her relatives; comments on her own affairs. Is forwarding a "little Box from Miss [Elizabeth] Freeman." Resents the touchiness of Mrs. Pawling who expects a formal invitation when she visits the city but does not notify her relatives of her presence. Likes Mr. Pawling and thinks their eldest child has the appearance of an aristocrat. Fanny Bond is "very unwell indeed." Mrs. Hamilton is improved after being bled.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Newark, [Del.], Oct. 30, 1794.

He and [Henry] are both well; "take ceare of the dogs and send up for us next Aprial."

A. L. S. 1 p. 22cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MR.] JOHN JOHNSON, N[ew] Ark, [Del.], Oct. 30, 1794.

Notifies Mrs. Ridgely of her sons' safe arrival and assures her he will pay close attention to their morals and conduct. Their bed has been delivered.

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 20.6cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from HENRY M. RIDGELY, Newark, [Del.], Oct. 30, 1794.

Tells of a trying trip to Newark. A carriage spring was broken crossing a small bridge. Mr. Calley was as careful as possible, but, "what is to be must be."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from HENRY M. RIDGELY, Newark, [Del.], Nov. 7, 1794.

Mr. [James] Black died Oct. 30. His funeral brought out the largest gathering Henry has ever seen. The coffin was of walnut, covered with black cloth and lined with flannel. Likes Mr. and Mrs. Johnson [his present instructor and his wife]. Mr. Robert Johnston, a previous tutor, is in town and promises to take letters to Dover.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 15.3cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from G[EORGE] W. R[IDGELY], Newark, [Del.], Nov. 7, 1794.

Has just heard of "an oppertunyty of wrighting to you to let you know my Brother and myself are boath well."

A. L. S. 1 p. 14.6cm. x 18cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Nov. 10, 1794.

Complains of the theft of corn from her fields, though it was the first harvested in the neighborhood. "Mingo" is in jail on that account. Reproves Henry for writing "what is to be must be"; considers this fatalistic attitude both illogical and sacrilegious. Inquires for a particularly reliable overseer, to whom she would pay more than the usual rate of $60.00 per year. Mentions the death of Mrs. Laws, a promised visit from her sons' former tutor Mr. Johnston, a cold caught during the harvesting, and the boys' unpleasant trip to New Ark.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

[MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from MARY [MRS. JOHN] DICKINSON, Wilmington, [Del.], Nov. 11, 1794.

Writes affectionately to inquire for Mrs. Ridgely and her family. Invites Nancy to visit her daughter Maria [Dickinson]. Has recently seen "Cousin [Charles] Thomson's family" on their pleasant and convenient farm at Merion, [Penna.]. Hopes to visit Kent [County]. Greatly enjoyed "Zimerman on Solitude." Mentions [her daughter] Sallie [Dickinson].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.4cm.

GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Nov. 11, 1794.

Tells who is in jail in Dover and on what charges. Describes a beautiful wax baby doll that "can open and shut its eyes" sent to Nancy [Ridgely] by Miss [Elizabeth] Freeman [from England]. Mentions the new instructor Mr. [John] Johnson, Miss and Mrs. Bellach, and the Thomson family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Newark, Del.], Nov. 30, 1794.

Has no news, except that Mr. Thatcher is giving up tavern-keeping and moving away. There will be a vendue at his house soon. There are now but thirteen students at New Ark Academy. A new boarder, John Martin, "has Mr. Reed as his Guardian." Hears Mr. [Wm.] Thomson arrived safely at Carlisle. Finds Mr. [John] Johnson, "good-natured, but not as good a scholar" as his predecessor.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15.5cm. x 20.3cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from G[EORGE] W. RIDGELY, Newark, [Del.], Nov. 30, 1794.

Has "an oppertunyti" to send a letter but has no news. Both he and Henry are well. Likes the Johnson family. Expects soon to "be in another Book." Inquires for "poor Charles Ham."

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 21cm.

GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 5, 1794.

Is pleased with the progress George's most recent letter shows. Mentions "Mr. Robt. Johnston, y[ou]r former Tutor." His "late School mate Charles Ham" is recovering after a serious nervous disorder, but he remains very deaf. Recently heard from her brother [Capt. Thomas Wm. Moore]. Esther [Slade, a servant] is suffering from a dangerous nosebleed.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.4cm. x 21cm.

[HENRY M. RIDGELY, Newark, Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 6, 1794.

Is glad the boys like [Mr. Johnson's] home at Newark. Mr. [George] Dashiell is teaching day and boarding students; among the latter are Nat. and George Sykes. Fears the cheeses uncle T[homas] W[illiam] Moore sent have been lost en-route. Inquires if the stockings and mittens arrived. Is pleased with George's recent improvement. Urges both boys to be industrious students and to recall the Parable of the Talents. Cautions about the temptations of "the present age, . . . termed, by a monster in wickedness, 'The Age of Reason.' " Mentions Miss Sadler and Miss Peggy Anderson, guests of Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely, Mr. Dashiell's infant daughter, and young John Stevens.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 17.5cm. x 20.8cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from G[EORGE] W. R[IDGELY], Newark, [Del.], Dec. 9, 1794.

Promises to write to his sisters by the next "oppertunity" and begs his mother to excuse Harry from writing this time, since he is studying. Assures her "nothing is the matter with hary [sic]." Suggests that letters sent to New Castle might reach them. Is glad to hear Miss [Elizabeth] Freeman is well. Regrets Mrs. Laws' death. Reminds the family to "take care of the dogs."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Dec. 10, [1794].

Fanny [Bond] has been gravely and painfully ill for some months. Meredith Clymer died from complications of a cold taken "on the late expedition." He was an exceptionally gifted youth. [Servants] will call for the books and chintz at the shallop "which lays a monstrous way from this house." Mentions Becky [Bond], Betsy McCall and B[etsy] T[ravis].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

HENRY and GEORGE RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, New Ark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 13, 1794.

Brother Nicholas [Ridgely] plans to visit the boys after Court at New Castle. Begs them both to "be cautious in venturing on the ice this winter if there sh[oul]d be any; nothing can be more dangerous."

A. L. S. 1 p. 17.5cm. x 20.8cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from HENRY M. RIDGELY, Newark, [Del.], Dec. 20, 1794.

Fears he cannot help his mother find a suitable overseer, as Dover's reputation for unhealthiness makes people unwilling to go there, and besides everyone is employed. Received the stockings and mittens. Supposes Mr. [Geo.] Dashiell will have a large school. There are thirteen at Newark, with more expected. George is recovering after several days' illness. Comments on the unseasonable weather. Mrs. Johnson is with her cousin, . . . Bohannon, who is suffering from a serious infection following a pin scratch. Saw nearly a hundred mules and forty jackasses driven through town recently.

A. L. S. 2. pp. 16cm. x 19cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, Newark, [Del.], Dec. 21, 1794.

Has been "verry sick" but is improving. Is sorry to hear about Esther [Slade, a servant]. Has no news of the Thomson family. Needs a dozen and a half buttons like an enclosed sample, from Dugal's; "they are all of[f] my brichis and thair is non up here."

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Dec. 27, 1794.

Hopes Mrs. Sykes will deliver the chintz. Complains that Mrs. Ridgely's neighbors who bring letters never call again to get an answer or packages. Is worried about Fanny Bond's illness and their mother's consequent confinement. Mrs. [Phineas] Bond regrets Mrs. Ridgely's poor health and urges her to wear flannel next to her skin and "live on Tappioca", a pound of which she will send if possible. "Poor [James] Reynolds" [the noted carver and gilder] has been dead some time, but his sons have now completed Mrs. Ridgely's glass. Mentions Tom and Fanny [Cadwalader], Sally [Goldsborough], Molly . . . , and Aleck . . . who is ill. "Uncle Weems Moore's son" is studying medicine in Philadelphia and spends much time with the family, who all like him very much.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.8cm. x 22.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philad[elphia], Dec. 28, 1794.

Could not do Mrs. Ridgely's errands because of the threat of yellow fever at the time her letter arrived, and since then she has been confined by the illness of [her sister] Fanny [Bond] who is suffering from a painful "nervous rheumatic complaint." Has been able to locate no "broad white mantua ribbon" but striped or plain white satin is available. Has been unable to finish Nancy's Vandike. Mrs. P. Bond sends a pound of tapioca. Admits that she herself finds "cheerful society" necessary.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16.8cm. x 20.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 29, 1794.

Is concerned at hearing George has been ill. Wants a frank report on his condition. Prefers Dr. [James] Tilton if a physician must be called for either boy. Has engaged Timothy Burch as overseer of the farm. Needs a competent woman servant. Supposes one she had considered "would object to the unhealthiness of Kent." Mentions Mrs. Johnson's cousin, Jemmy Calley, and the tavernkeeper, Mr. Thatcher. Comments on the mules recently driven through Newark. Would like a pair to relieve her two fine mares of heavy work.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 29, 1794.

Has been much worried over his illness. Is grateful for Mr. Johnson's care of him. Missed her sons greatly at Christmas. Esther [Slade] appreciates his thoughtfulness. "Your Dogs are well."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 20.5cm.

[REV. MR. JOHN] JOHNSON, [Principal, Newark Academy, Newark, Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Dec. 29, 1794.

Thanks him for his care of her son George in his illness. Says " . . . not withstand'g my son Nicholas assured me that his Brother George had got rid of his fevers and appeared to be recovering, I am very uneasy on his acc[oun]t." Suggests Dr. [James] Tilton of Wilmington be sent for if a physician is ever required for either of the boys.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 19, 1795.

Is sending the buttons. Wishes the boys to have "everything necessary to appear genteel at the examination." Hopes George will "speak in Public." Has a satisfactory new overseer, Timothy Birch. Refers to the marriages of Mrs. Loockerman and Major Patten, Miss Bassett and Mr. Bayard, Neill Battell and Miss Many, and the untrue rumor of Mr. Neill's marriage to Miss Richardson not long after the death of his wife. Sons were recently born to Mrs. Goldsborough (née McMullan) and to Sally Taylor. Mentions the Thomson family, a "new Relation", her own recent poor health, and George's dogs.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.3cm. x 21.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philad[elphia], Jan. 25, 1795.

Has her hands full with a family of invalids. Suggests that the old carpet given the bearer to cover his goods on the trip to Dover may later "serve to cover some of the Black Children."

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, New Ark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 2, 1795.

Sends a coat brother Nicholas cannot wear, which is to be remade for George, and will send both boys "Cloth for New Coats before the Examination." Wishes a receipt from the tailor.

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 21cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from [DR.] WM. McKEE, [near Wilmington], Feb. 10, 1795.

Accepts, in his wife's name, an invitation from Mrs. Ridgely. Though [his step-daughter] Sally Banning is ill of scarlet fever "the eruptions of which appeared this morning", he believes she will do what she was asked in connection with Nancy's [Ridgely] birthday. Mrs. McKee has just gone to Richard Banning's with her niece.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.8cm. x 22.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], Feb. 22, 1795.

Has never spent a more unpleasant winter, for the illness of her sisters Fanny [Bond] and [Betsy] Travis has confined her constantly. Is sure the Ridgely family will be pleased with "our young relation" [James W. Moore] who delivers the letter. The glass and dressing glass are ready. Wishes further directions about having them shipped.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY and GEORGE RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, New Ark, [Del.], from MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 13, 1795.

Timothy Birch brings material for coats and waistcoats for each boy, and $4.00 apiece, from which they are to pay the tailor's bill. "The Blue cloth is 7 quarters w[i]d[e], Superfine; there is 3 yds. & three quarters of it. . . . I beg you will have them made large . . . and tell y[ou]r Taylor to face them with Cloth as they sh[oul]d be done so as to cover the pockets." The material for the waistcoasts is "Buff Cassimer" to match the breeches she trusts are still almost new. Sends sewing silk, twist, linen, buckram and thread. Buttons should be fabric-covered, since metal ones are no longer fashionable in Philadelphia. Also has four pair of white cotton stockings for them. Complains of being unable to write comfortably by candle-light. Is well after a recent illness.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.5cm. x 20.8cm.

HENRY and GEORGE RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, New Ark, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Mar. 14, 1795.

Gives directions for coming home by stage from New Castle if horses cannot be sent. Encloses cash for payment of outstanding personal bills. Board and tuition money will be sent Mr. Johnson.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17.3cm. x 21.8cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from [REV.] JOHN JOHNSON, Newark, [Del.], Apr. 15, 1795.

Appreciates Mrs. Ridgely's letter relative to George's [Ridgely] recent illness and explains some of the circumstances. Finds that starting housekeeping "in such fluctuating times subject[s] us to many small inconveniences" he did not foresee. Hopes all his scholars will do well at the examination later that day.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from WILLIAM BOSTICK, [Dover], Apr. 30, 1795.

Expects to move to Philadelphia in a few days, so wishes to collect immediately his bill for material, hauling and "sundrie work", which he states briefly, promising an itemized account if required.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 18cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from WILLIAM BOSTICK, [Dover, post Apr. 30, 1795].

Defends his bill which was in excess of his estimate and threatens suit if payment is not made before Saturday. Refers to Mrs. Ridgely as "living in splendor."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.7cm. x 21.6cm.

HON. THOMAS SMITH, Philadelphia, from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], May 13, 1795.

Has determined, on Mr. Smith's advice, to enroll her sons in [the preparatory school of] Dickinson College, since disturbances in the neighborhood appear to have ceased. Asks the best route to Carlisle, and the names of persons who might board the boys and handle their money if Mr. [Wm.] Thomson, the Latin master and their former instructor at Newark, cannot do so.

Cy. U. 2 pp. 17.4cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, c/o NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from THOMAS SMITH, Philadelphia, May 27, 1795.

Still considers accurate the report he gave previously of Dickinson College, except that teaching of the classics is strengthened by the addition of Mr. [Wm.] Thomson to the faculty. Mathematics is also well taught. Will inform her when classes are to reopen after vacation. There is adequate stage and [baggage] wagon communication with Philadelphia. The disorders in the neighborhood, which never affected the school, are quieted. Suggests Samuel Postelthwait as a suitable person to handle her sons' money and oversee their conduct. Is happy to assist "a sister to her whom I considered not only as a Sister but as a Mother to me", [Mrs. Wm. Smith] whose death he still mourns. Implies that she failed to leave the city promptly enough during an epidemic.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.8cm.

THOMAS SMITH, Esq., [Philadelphia], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], June 24, 1795.

Appreciates Mr. Smith's helpful letter. Asks him to request some responsible Carlisle friend to select a suitable boarding place for her sons if Mr. [Wm.] Thomson cannot take them. Replies to his reference to her deceased sister [Mrs. Wm. Smith], and remarks that no member of the Smith family but he has written since her death.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 17.4cm. x 21cm.

WILLIAM THOMSON, [Carlisle, Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, near Dover, June 24, 1795.

Hopes her sons can be accommodated in his family at Carlisle and that Mr. Thomson will continue to "pay attention to their moral conduct" as he did at Newark. Wishes their preparatory studies completed as soon as possible, "that they may be put to the professions w[hi]ch they are to practice in future."

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 17.3cm. x 21.3cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], July 2, 1795.

Inquires about her sons' trip to Carlisle and advises them about their conduct and the care of their health. Their sisters [Mary and Williamina Ridgely] with their cousins J. W. Moore and Fanny Bond have arrived in New York on the way to Rhode Island. Mentions Dr. [Nicholas] Way, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Nixon and the Thomsons.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from ELIZ[ABE]TH [MRS. THOS.] DORSEY, Elk Ridge, [Md.], July 16, 1795.

Her eight children are well. Archa[bald] and Betsy [Dorsey] are both married and Nicholas [Dorsey] will soon go away to school. Hopes the Ridgely girls can visit her. Alludes to their planned trip to Newport, [R. I.]. Her [daughter] Juliet [Dorsey] would like to come to Dover but no suitable transportation is at present available. Wishes further information about the Morris rent "due me and my sister Warfield['s] children", concerning which "Nickey Ridgely" has recently said nothing.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.8cm. x 31cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at MR. WM. THOMSON'S, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], July 30, 1795.

Mary and "Willy" [Ridgely] arrived safe at Newport, [R. I.] after a rough passage from New York. Mary was especially pleased with that city. Reminds the boys to address letters to her "Hon[ore]d or D[ea]r Mad[a]m" and to their older brothers, "D[ea]r Brother or D[ea]r Sir." Hopes Henry can be graduated younger than eighteen, for he should begin his professional studies earlier than that. Board at Carlisle, with all incidentals, was quoted to her at 30 to 35 pounds per year; is surprised at Henry's account. Mentions [John] Vining's family, Mr. Thomson, [the Negro boys] Andrew and Jim, and Betsy Crooks who collapsed at prayer meeting and was borne home at midnight "followed by all the class, shouting most vehemently all the way."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. and [GEORGE W.] RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Aug. 27, 1795.

Describes a terrific storm early in the month which did considerable damage, though "not so much . . . as I feared." Could get no "cambrick to ruffle the bosoms" of nine shirts she has had ready for nearly a month, awaiting transportation, but thinks "handsome cravats" will be sufficient. Believes letters will reach her if sent to Lancaster, addressed to Dover, in "care of Judge Smith at Philad[elphi]a". Mrs. Bellach recently died after a short illness.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.5cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. [and GEORGE W.] RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 13, 1795.

Acknowledges letters from both sons and mentions hearing from ["Willy" and Mary Ridgely] at Newport. Fears the fever at New York will interrupt communications with Rhode Island. Encloses $10.00 for joint use, asking the boys to "keep a very exact acct. of all the money you spend."

A. L. S. 1 p. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. and [GEORGE W.] RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Nov. 1, 1795.

[Williamina and Mary] have arrived in Philadelphia and expect to be home soon, bringing with them their cousin Jane Moore. Brother Nick is sending Harry two pair of "cotton and silk Stock[in]gs (home spun) w[hi]ch . . . [are] too small for him." Clothing may be purchased as needed at Carlisle, if the Thomsons approve. There has been much illness in the neighborhood, but few deaths have resulted. Her own household has been so indisposed "no spining, kniting, weaving or sewing [was done]—it was fortunate I had forty yds of Homemade cloth beforehand for my people."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.4cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Nov. 7, [1795].

Tom [Cadwalader] has been seriously ill, but is better. Thinks ["Willy" and Mary Ridgely and Fanny Bond] appear much better since their trip to Rhode Island. Mrs. Beveridge thinks a brief summer visit in Kent County has ruined her rugged constitution. Fears Mrs. Ridgely will never leave that locality permanently, especially since land prices are now so high near Philadelphia, but begs her always to go away during August at least. Constantly dreads an outbreak of yellow fever in Philadelphia during the season for it.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 33.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Nov. 12, 1795.

"Willy" and Mary [Ridgely], with their cousin Jane Moore, have arrived in Dover. Her brother [Capt. T. W. Moore] will not go to Europe until spring. John Hillyard will soon enter Dickinson College. The boys will have to purchase their own stockings, since the entire Ridgely household has suffered too severely from malaria to knit any and none are available in the Dover shops. Reproves Henry for careless penmanship. Kitty McCall and Risdon Bishop are to be married tonight. Identifies the new [Federalist] Governor, Gunning Bedford, Sr., as George Read's brother-in-law and a cousin of Gunning Bedford, Jr., former Dover resident and a [Republican].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.5cm. x 21cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], Nov. 28, 1795.

Received the letter from Mrs. Ridgely enclosing $80.00. Now has everything ready to send to Dover. Serious illness of Bill . . . , which upset the household routine, caused the delay. Has purchased six pairs of shoes, at $1.25 each, for the girls since they were such a bargain. One pair is flat-heeled; the rest have York heels. Mrs. [Phineas] Bond looks thin and pale. Fanny [Bond], though improving, is not well. Mentions Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett and her infant daughter Julia. Alludes to Marie and Harriett . . . Reproves Mrs. Ridgely for settling accounts with such haste; assures her statements are sent with her goods only to avoid errors. Hopes Mary will correspond with Fanny [Cadwalader] who needs practice, since illness has interfered so much with her education. Expects her to improve rapidly under an excellent master this winter. Encloses a bill for sugar.

A. L. S. [1 enclosure] 2 pp. 18cm. x 22cm.

MRS [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia, Dec. 15, 1795].

Sends an account for items purchased of Toland, Evans, [Betsy] Carson [dressmaker], Reynolds and Breantnall, among them shoes and a screen. "Our Cousin Jane" [Moore] expects to be happy [in Dover]. Is delighted with a gift of cider and poultry but declines offered hams, since she is adequately supplied. Tells of the death of Sally Eaton, mentioning her husband, child, and "poor Mrs. Burrows." Fanny [Bond] is improving. Mamma [Mrs. Phineas Bond] was terrified recently when a party of mourners, "the lowest wretches", attacked her coachman who had attempted to pass ahead of a butcher's funeral procession.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.8cm. x 33.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at MR. WILLIAM THOMSON'S, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 20, 1795.

It will be difficult to send the money Henry needs to Carlisle in time. Remarks on the difference in the two boys' expense accounts, and cautions Henry to be economical, since her own collections are very difficult. Comments on the death of Thomas Nixon, who left a widow and seven orphans virtually destitute. Mentions the Hillyards and Master Thomas O'Connell. Reminds her sons to write more regularly.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.5cm. x 21.3cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 27, 1795.

Reluctantly sends by mail, for lack of safer means, $100.00 for the board bill. Discusses the boys' accounts. Names the guests at the house for Christmas. Says, "to tell the truth they were but a poor silent set of mortals indeed." Also mentions Mrs. Johnson of Newark, Mrs. Thomson, Jo. McDaniel, and J[ohn] Hillyard. The former Anney Killen has an infant daughter. The overseer plans to leave.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.5cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at MR. WM. THOMSON'S Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 3, 1796.

Sent $105.00 recently for expenses. Extends holiday greetings. The gentlemen of Dover gave a Ball last week, and others are planned bi-weekly through the winter. "On

Wednesday next there is to be a Ball and a 12th Cake at Mr. [John] Vining's." Thinks her own sons are better employed at school.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

[GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Carlisle, Penna.], from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], Jan. 15, 1796.

Has received no acknowledgment of the $105.00 sent Dec. 15th to pay Mr. [Wm.] Thomson. Warns her sons against "gaming in any sort whatever" and begs them to "own it to me" if either has joined "in such things." Sent them so far from home in the hope they would be in a favorable environment. "Here, you know, Cock fighting, Cards, Billiards and Dice playing is as common as eating and Drinking."

A. Df. U. 3 pp. 17.3cm. x 21.4cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, c/o MISS BASS, 114 High St., Philadelphia, from [MISS] ELIZABETH FREEMAN, Huddersfield, [England], Jan. 16, 1795.

Fears her letters written from England have miscarried as they have not been answered. Has, however, heard from "Willy" and Mary [Ridgely]. Longs to see her American friends again, though her English relatives are all "exceedingly kind." Writes at considerable length of religion. Mentions Nancy [Ridgely], and alludes to the fact the older Ridgely children are all away from home. Refers to epidemics in many parts of the world.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.7cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at MR. WM. THOMSON'S, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 24, 1796.

Is sending $30.00 though she dislikes using the mails for that purpose. Finds Henry's grammar inexcusably careless. Tells of an exceptionally severe ice storm. Esther [Slay] is still ill; doubts she will recover.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. [and GEORGE W.] RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 14, 1796.

Insists that her sons must write "at least once a month." Regrets Mr. [Wm.] Thomson's illness. Suggests the boys come home for vacation via Lancaster instead of through Reading. Dover has been "very gay" this winter. Cousin Jane [Moore] will stay until June. "She is about the size of Junia Killen and has not a spark of beauty." Cousin J[ames] W[emyss] Moore plans to return South soon. Refers to Miss Junia's [Killen] admirers, to letters the boys have not answered, to Sister Nancy's improvement in writing, and to John Hillyard, a fellow-student at Dickinson College.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.5cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at WM. THOMSON'S, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Mar. 6 ,1796.

Sends an additional $15.00. Inquires if Delaware Bank bills are accepted at Carlisle. Is pleased with his comment on gambling, which she calls "inconsistent with the character of a Christian, a Gentleman, or even a rational creature." J. W. Moore plans to return at once to Georgia after his studies are completed. Asks about the stage connections between Wilmington and Lancaster, board rates in summer at the latter town, and boarding schools there for girls. Wishes to place Nancy in school, but does not want to send her to Philadelphia yet, since it now has no girls' school she approves. Thinks her progress in reading and composition excellent. Inquires about her sons' vacation plans.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. [and GEORGE W.] RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Dover, Mar. 17, 1796.

Looks forward eagerly to seeing the boys in May. Asks them what money they will need before returning from school. Suggests that Mr. [Wm.] Thomson try a remedy for jaundice which was highly recommended to "Willy" at Rhode Island: "1 oz. Gentian, 1 oz. Turmeric, [sic] ½ oz. Cinnamon pounded together, 1 handful of Garden Celendine. Put to this one quart of water. Keep in a warm place and take two or three wine Glasses of it in a day, after taking an emetic."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17.5cm. x 21cm.

THOMAS WILLIAM MOORE, Esq., N[ew] Port, R. I., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 20, 1796.

Is amazed to learn that Jane [Moore] has become engaged without her parents' consent and asks her brother if he really gave his daughter the right of entirely free choice in the matter. Describes her niece's fiance, Jacob Jones, in much detail. Indicates that, though he is "genteel" and personally acceptable, his financial prospects are not encouraging. Hopes her brother or his wife, should they approve the match, will attend the wedding.

A. Df. S. 4 pp. 17.4cm. x 21.3cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], April 1, [c. 1796].

[Her daughter] Fanny [Cadwalader] is recovering after an illness. She misses her cousins ["Willy" and Mary Ridgely] greatly since their return home. James Moore has been dangerously ill of pleurisy, and Betsy McCall's baby is believed dying of "a complaint in its head." Urges Mrs. Ridgely to visit. Always has at least two spare beds. Nancy . . . is to be married soon. Patsy Meredith is engaged to John Reed [Read], son of [the late] George Reed [Read] of New Castle, and Ann McCall to Wm. [Read], brother of John. Has heard a rumor [concerning "Willy" Ridgely's prospective marriage]. Hopes [Jane Moore's] parents make no objection [to her betrothal]; "it seems to me a God-send." Uncle [Thos. Wm.] Moore is not yet provided for. Mamma [Mrs. Phineas Bond] sends a gift of garden seed, including cauliflower. Appreciates the hams. Discusses purchases. Thinks Nancy [Ridgely] should soon come [to school] in Philadelphia "on acc[oun]t of dancing only, for otherwise a girl can learn every other thing with you as well as here." Sends a nearly new frock Fanny has outgrown. Mentions [Mr.] Naylor and [Mr.] Phillips. On April 4 she continues, acknowledging a gift of asparagus, referring to some engraved buttons and to a pair of shoes sent Jane [Moore]. Fanny Bond is at the Wharton's in Wilmington and may later visit Dover. Anne Smith attended Miss Darrach's wedding at [Duck Creek Cross Roads].

A. L. S. 11 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, April 3, 1796.

Is writing for Mamma [Mrs. Ridgely], who is "fatigued with having been all last week in the Garden, Orchards, etc." Mentions the marriage of Nat. Boyer to Miss P. Hutson, birth of healthy triplets to Mrs. Barry, trips planned by Nicholas [Ridgely] and [Abraham Ridgely's] wife and daughter, an accident to Nicholas Loockerman, and several movings. Minty Meeks and Letitia Minshall are both critically ill with complications of pleurisy. Asks if the Mr. Ridgely at Carlisle is a relative.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

MRS. ANNE RIDGELY, Dover, from THOMAS W[M.] MOORE, New Port, [R. I.], April 5, 1796.

Replies to his sister's letter of March 20. He had long ago given his daughter Janet [Moore] "free liberty to choose a husband" so will of course give the consent she has asked for her union with Mr. [Jacob] Jones. Because he is daily expecting orders to London and as his wife is unwilling to leave him under the circumstances, neither can attend the wedding. Advances $100.00 for "necessaries", and asks that the ceremony be private, "no feasting, no fuss."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.7cm. x 22.5cm.

THOMAS WILLIAM MOORE, Esq., [Newport, R. I.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], April 9, 1796.

Is concerned at receiving no reply to her letter about Jane's [Moore] engagement to Jacob Jones. Thinks early May the best time for the marriage if it is to take place, for "I cannot consent to her riding and walking about my neighborhood with him or any other man" as she is determined to do. Worries about her niece's "ungovernable disposition" because the future welfare of her own children, to whom her word has always been law, depends upon her maintaining discipline in the family. Hopes Mrs. Moore can come to Dover. Mail from Rhode Island arrives "in 8 or 9 days regularly." Speaks of Mr. Jones' plans, and of [John] Vining.

Cy. 3 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from MRS. [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], April 10, [1796].

Arch[ibald] McCall's infant has died. The wine is ready to ship. Warns Mrs. Ridgely not to tell Mr. [John] Dickinson its price, if he tastes it, for the same thing was sold to him at a higher rate. Cousin [James W.] Moore is better, and has left for Georgia. Comments on Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett's eccentric conduct. Refers again to merchandise previously mentioned, and the shoes and dress Fanny [Cadwalader] has outgrown. Repeats a rumor that one of the Ridgely girls is to marry "Mr. Miller." Later expresses her satisfaction that opposition to "Willy's" marriage has been withdrawn, since she is of full age, has long been attached to the young man and he is entirely eligible. Hopes, however, they will locate in Wilmington, where Dr. [Nicholas] Way left an opening for a physician, for "she might as well be in England as N[ew] York." Likes Wilmington and thinks "Willy's" prejudice against it is unfounded. Is glad consent to [Jane Moore's marriage to Jacob Jones] has been given. Complains of extortionate prices. Would move to the country if her children did not require city advantages. Fears opposition to the [Jay] Treaty and "the conduct of those vile Southern wretches . . . will . . . involve us all in ruin." Sleeve buttons will cost about $10.00 for two pair. Tom [Cadwalader] is ill with a bad cold following "an influenza which has terminated in many instances in a pleurisy." Drs. Griffith and [Benjamin] Rush are attending him. Will soon send *The Old Baron.* Liked Miss William's *Letters on the French Nation.* Mentions Sally [Goldsborough], her [step-] mother, and brother Charles, and Messrs. Naylor and Phillips. Fanny Bond is suffering from "alarming fainting fits." Miss Smith, "Anna Young's daughter and Mrs. [Elizabeth Graeme] Ferguson's niece" will soon visit Dover.

A. L. S. 12 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], April 10, 1796.

Reproves Harry for a grammatical error. Stresses the importance of a sound education. Wishes her sons to remain in Philadelphia only long enough "to see Spence and to have whatever is proper done to your teeth", unless inflammation follows when the journey home must be delayed until it is safe. Describes Tom Tilton, a nephew of Dr. [James] Tilton, expected to marry Junia Killen soon. Mentions servant Esther [Slay] and slave Bet. Hopes twelve-year-old Nancy [Ridgely], still "rather fat and a little clumsy" though much taller will become "genteeler before she grows up." George and Mary [Ridgely] are both growing rapidly.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.5cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], April 19, 1796.

Is entirely willing to make whatever purchases Jane [Moore] wishes with the hundred dollars established to her credit in Philadelphia. Fanny [Bond] is no better. Hopes the warm climate of Georgia will enable James [W.] Moore, who sailed yesterday, to recover rapidly after his attack of pleurisy.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, April 22, 1796.

Minty Meeks is recovering physically from her illness but is "quite deranged." Letitia Minshall has died. Tells of the sudden death of "your old schoolmate", Jemmy Hanse, who was about to go [as an apprentice] to a Philadelphia wholesale merchant. Mary [W.] Ridgely [daughter of Abraham] is prettier and better behaved than formerly. Heard recently from Miss Elizabeth Freeman, in England. Tells of repairs to the house. Mentions brothers Nicholas and George [Ridgely], Mr. and Mrs. Bayard, Miss Otto, and Dr. Sudler, whose wife died recently.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, from THOMAS WILLI[AM] MOORE, New Port, [R. I.], April 24, 1796.

Hopes [his daughter] Janet is by now married. "She has made her Own Bed, may it be a comfortable one." Will leave in a few days for London. His wife will remain on Long Island for the present. Asks the women in the family, if opportunity offers, "to send [him] each an old shoe . . . the girls will tell you why!" Thanks her for her kindness to his daughter.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from E[LIZABETH, née GRAEME] FERGUSON, [Bethlehem, Penna.], April 27, [17]96.

Introduces Anna Smith, granddaughter of "my Sister Young", who is visiting near Dover to attend the marriage of a friend to Rev. [John C.] Brush. Speaks highly of the latter. His congregation of young Germans, whose parents wish them "to be Englished", regrets his moving to Dover. Having no Episcopal church in her neighborhood she attends services of several other denominations, so has heard of Mr. Brush. Tells of Anna Smith's family. Mentions Mrs. Cadwalader, Sally Goldsborough, and Tom [Cadwalader]. Hopes their correspondence will be renewed. Encloses extracts from letters received from Mrs. Frazer in Trenton, [N. J.] telling of a mother who had accidentally poisoned her gifted child, and of the grief of Mrs. Stockton and Mrs. Frazer whose husbands had both died very suddenly.

A. L. S. [1 enclosure] 4 + 8 pp. 18cm. x 21.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. [WILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], May 1, [1796].

Thinks the Ridgely boys appeared in excellent health on their return from [Dickinson] College and hopes they have made satisfactory progress under Dr. [Chas.] Nesbit. Lists the articles shipped to Dover in [Capt.] Buckmaster's shallop. Her brother will forward the letter to Miss [Elizabeth] Freeman. Ratification of the [Jay] Treaty "has given great joy to all good people."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

[MRS. ELIZABETH FERGUSON, Montgomery County, Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], May 7, 1796.

Tells her valued friend that she looks forward to meeting Miss Smith who rode from Philadelphia to Duck Creek Crossroads [Kent County, Del.] with Rev. Mr. Brush and her two sons, now being educated at Dickinson College. Mr. Brush was their former tutor at Dover. Mentions the misfortunes of Mrs. Crugar, Mr. Stockton, Mr. Frazer, and Rev. Mr. Vandyke's daughters who were drowned.

A. Df. S. 4 pp. 17.5cm. x 20.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], May 14, 1796.

Mr. Travis advises Mrs. Ridgely to purchase Pennsylvania Bank or Insurance stock promptly, as it is rising rapidly due to the ratification of the [Jay] Treaty. Forwards a letter, as requested, to [Thomas Wm. Moore] of whose departure for London she first learned through Mrs. Ridgely. Refers to Fanny [Bond], [Mr.] Boyer, [Mrs. Phineas Bond] and to the arrival of the "English Minister and his Lady."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22.4cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], May 18, [1796].

Fears shoes for "Willy" [Ridgely] will not be ready to send; adds a note saying they arrived but one pair was far too large and was returned. Identifies the Mrs. Frazer and Mrs. Stockton of Mrs. [Elizabeth] Ferguson's letter. The boys' coats, with pearl buttons, are the latest style and are of cloth imported from England. In the fall Fanny Bond will probably accept Mrs. Ridgely's invitation to come to Dover. Speaks of *The Old Baron* and Bennet's *Letters*.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Philad[elphia], May 25, [c. 1796].

Hopes the boys may "yet get their coats made" since they have missed this week's stage for Lancaster. Is sorry "the wedding is likely to be delayed." L. Cadwalader and Mr. [John] Travis both think bank stock, though high, is the best investment. Suggests giving Mr. Travis the right to purchase, sell and repurchase shares if price changes warrant. Writes about shoes, handkerchiefs, "silk to work the waistcoats", strawberries, and peas. Mentions "Willy" [Ridgely] and Jane [Mrs. Jacob Jones].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], June 2, [1796].

Acknowledges the receipt of $1270 for investment in bank stock. Mr. Travis now recommends Bank of the United States shares since Congress has "determined to pay their debt." Hopes someone in Philadelphia will be given authority to sell for Mrs. Ridgely and repurchase if the speculation appears advisable. [Henry and George Ridgely] are to leave by Saturday's stage [for Carlisle]. Mentions "Bondano" handkerchiefs for them and shoes for "Willy".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.9cm. x 33cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], June 3, [1796].

Is puzzled by Mrs. Ridgely's failure to receive her recent letter. The bank stock has not yet been purchased because no shares have been offered for sale since the remittance arrived.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 16.5cm.

HENRY M. [and GEORGE W.] RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], June 5, 1796.

Says Mr. Nixon died the day the boys left for Carlisle. Comments somewhat acidly on "a certain person" [Jane Moore, recently the bride of Jacob Jones]. Mentions a letter from Nancy [Ridgely] to George and asks to hear from "one of you at least once every two weeks."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.4cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], June 21, 1796.

Reports the purchase of five shares of Pennsylvania Bank stock and discusses various related details. Refers to much successful speculation in land, bewailing the fact that she has not "been amongst the fortunate ones. If I have money there is nothing to purchase." Speaks of the recent marriage of Nancy [Cadwalader ?] and the coming marriage of Patty Meredith. Mentions the books, *The Old Baron* and *The Gamester.*

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18cm. x 22.4cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], June 27, 1796.

Has just learned that the shares bought for Mrs. Ridgely were those of the Bank of the United States which she had understood were unobtainable. Is much perplexed about suitable investment of "the small fortunes of my two children and a sum for myself", and is worried by the illness of her daughter Fanny [Cadwalader]. Patty Meredith's "wedding was immense, near 60 People. The Bride sadly frightened." [Mr.] Rittenhouse just died.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], July 3, 1796.

Is much concerned over Harry's disagreement with Mr. [Wm.] Thomson. Does not consider the occurrence as reported to her sufficient cause for leaving his home, and points out both his probable reason and his past kindness to both boys. Will permit her sons to move, after mature consideration, if there have been other unpleasant incidents. Warns against going into a family which includes "flirting, giddy Women or Girls." Mentions the widow Mrs. Nixon, her own harvest, and Esther Slay. Speaks disparagingly of Mr. and Mrs. [Jacob] Jones, who are "almost too lazy to eat."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], July 6, 1796.

Discusses bank stock, purchase of "bark" [quinine] and other medicines "from Delany", and Philadelphia real estate desirable for speculation. Has a lot on Spruce Street near 6th where she considers building eventually. Suggests Mrs. Ridgely obtain one nearby. Begs her not to remain in Dover during the summer. Though there is no epidemic there is considerable illness in Philadelphia. Nancy Meredith, Wm. Tilghman, Miss Bunner, Dr. Woodhouse and Mrs. Blodgett's little girl are all sick. Speaks scathingly of [Mrs. Blodgett] and complains of the neglect Sally Goldsborough and [her brothers] suffer from their mother's relatives. "Anna Smith says that your Home is a Paradise." Mentions Rev. [Samuel] Magaw. Scolds Mrs. Ridgely and her daughters for not "changing their cloaths with the Weather. When the girls . . . [went] to N[ew] Port they had not even a flannel petty-coat."

A. L. S. 8 pp. 18cm. x 22.6cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from WILLIAM THOMSON, Carlisle, [Penna.], July 9, 1796.

Notifies Mrs. Ridgely that since George [Ridgely] has dropped the study of languages, presumably with her consent, he is occupied but a few hours a day with arithmetic. Thinks he should continue Latin, at least, as "others who are learning arithmetic" do.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 26.8cm.

WILLIAM THOMSON, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], July 16, 1796.

States that she gave George permission to drop Greek and Latin and "apply diligently to Mathematicks", when she became convinced he would not prepare himself for "either of the Learned professions." Had supposed the College would substitute other subjects in place of these languages, and is immediately notifying her son to "comply with your directions." Is distressed that he has wasted so much time.

A. Df. S. 3 pp. 17.7cm. x 21cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Philadelphia], July 16, [1796].

Discusses business relative to bank dividends and suggests the purchase of a light wagon which is both useful and safe. Plans to invest in more bank stock. Hopes the Ridgely family are about to leave Dover for the summer. Illness is increasing in Philadelphia. Betsy Bunner died, shortly before her intended wedding to Mr. Cummins. Tells of Fanny Bond's improving health and of a pleasant stay Tom [Cadwalader] and her brother have enjoyed in New York. Dr. [Wm.] Smith and his family have "shamefully neglected" [his granddaughter] Sally [Goldsborough]. Alludes to difficulties Mrs. Ridgely has had with "the pair of Lovers." Her brother has heard from [Dr.] James [W.] Moore.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18cm. x 22.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], July 24, 1796.

Has had no reply to her letter concerning the possibility of leaving Mr. [Wm.] Thomson's home. Asks if George has taken her advice to continue Latin. Has just heard of the death of her nephew, Dr. James Wemyss Moore, shortly after his return to Savannah. Is deeply grieved but not surprised, since he was in poor health when he left Philadelphia and she had feared the journey might prove fatal.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], July 31, 1796.

Assumes George is continuing Latin under Mr. [Wm.] Thomson as she directed. Begs both boys to be studious and warns against agreeable companions who are none the less "wicked" men. There have been many fatal cases of dysentery in and near Wilmington. Mr. and Mrs. [Jacob] Jones are at Lewes, [Del.]. They have taken the Miller house in Dover. Dr. [J. W.] Moore died shortly after reaching Georgia. [George's dogs] are still well three weeks after the "last Dog was mad."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.4cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, at MRS. TRAVIS', Chestnut Hill, [Penna.], Aug. 17, [c. 1796].

Reproves Mrs. Ridgely and her daughters for carelessness in not adjusting their dress to the weather. Recommends "Centaury tea" taken along with "bark" and "some gentle medicine" [as a precaution against malaria]. Worries much about Tom [Cadwalader] since his recent serious illness. Discusses bank stock. Refers to [Rev. Saml. Magaw], Mr. [John] Travis, Franks Hamilton, Mrs. [Elizabeth] Ferguson, Mrs. [John C.] Brush, Anna Smith, Dr. [Edward] Miller, Sally [Goldsborough], [Rev. Wm. Smith] and the Blodgett family.

A. L. U. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Aug. 21, [1796].

Encloses a copy of a note to "the Parson" [Rev. Samuel Magaw] to which she has received no satisfactory reply. Mr. Bond advises legal action as "most People complain of him in money transactions." Continues a discussion of financial matters. Has received a tempting offer to rent her house "for a Lodging House" at £400 quarterly. The little Travis boy is ill. There is no news [concerning Dr. James W. Moore] from Georgia, or from Franks Hamilton "about your chair."

A. L. S. [1 enclosure] 3 pp. 18cm. x 22.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Aug. 21, 1796.

Returns a power of attorney which was not correctly worded. Advises legal action to collect the debt from "the Parson" [Rev. Samuel Magaw].

A. N. U. [enclosure] 1 + 1pp. 21cm. x 28cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Aug. 24, [c. 1796].

Had hoped to have two pieces of linen to send by the first person going to Dover but has not found any. Advises waiting for a better selection. Intends going to the country to visit Betsy [Travis]. Is extremely sorry the Ridgely family will remain at home. Mentions Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Ferguson and Mrs. Todd. Sends stockings at $1.25 a pair. Lists stockings, ink powder, and *Columbus.*

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] R[IDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Sept. 12, [1796].

Offers medical advice, again praising "Centaury Tea." There is unusually little sickness in Philadelphia. Came to town intending to move but has not yet found a house. Continues a business discussion. Recommends Mrs. Dally's school near Philadelphia for Nancy [Ridgely]. Only French is spoken there. Hopes Sally [Goldsborough] is entered. Refers to [Sally's] family and to "the good Parson."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18cm. x 22.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Sept. 12, [1796].

Received an $80.00 dividend for Mrs. Ridgely. She advised Franks Hamilton to find out if Mrs. Ridgely would pay $110.00 for "a chair", a rather exorbitant price for a second-hand vehicle. Has purchased the linen requested.

A. L.S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Sept. 25, 1796.

Encloses $100.00 for expenses but asks a more explicit accounting of the sum previously spent. Wants her sons to "be frugal—not mean." Hopes their vacation is spent in profitable reading, compositions and "manly exercises among proper companions—but not at Taverns, be the company who they may, nor among women and girls from whom nothing but nonsense and affectation is generally met with nowadays."

Censures a supercilious young visitor who expressed amazement at finding the Ridgely sisters at work and thought it unladylike to be useful. "What can such a poor vain piece of affectation and folly be worth?"

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.[A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Oct. 2, 1796.

Sends $100.00 to cover the winter's needs. Reminds Henry to pay Mr. [Wm.] Thomson and his tutors promptly. Asks when he will take his degree. Emphasizes the value of learning to speak well in public. Calls to the boys' attention Washington's [Farewell] address. She extravagantly admires both the man and the speech. "Party rage makes our little State a disagreeable place at the present Season", just before election. Mr. [Jas. A.] Bayard has a son a few days old. Comments on the unseasonably cold, but remarkably healthy, summer and fall.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Oct. 9, 1796.

Apologizes for her frequent lectures on economy, but hopes they will prove valuable. "My little Terrapine is dead, and I have put it in spirits."

A. N. S. 1 p. 17.3cm. x 13.4cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], Oct. 18, 1796.

Regretfully announces that "there is nothing to expect" from the division of the "M[oore] H[all]" estate. Gives further details. Mentions a son of Dan[ie]l Moore, Mrs. [Thos. Wm.] Moore, Capt. Watson, Mrs. [Jacob] Jones, [merchant] John Guest, Henry [Ridgely], Betsy [Travis], S[amuel] Chew and his brother, and Judge Smith. Could not obtain Hannah Moore's *Works*. The household goods Jane's [Jones] mother sent should be stored near the dock while awaiting transportation to Dover to avoid damage from being carted over Philadelphia's rough streets.

A. L. [incomplete] 4 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER], Philad[elphia], Oct. 23, [1796].

Repeats, in somewhat abbreviated form, the contents of her letter of Oct. 18.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Oct. 23, 1796.

Encloses $100.00 to cover all expenses until Commencement in the spring, but stresses the difficulty of collecting cash sufficient for all demands. Is sending "your work'd Waistcoats." William Keys recently died after a sudden brief illness. "Mr. [Richard] Bassett is at length married to Betsy Garnett" and [his daughter] Mrs. [James A.] Bayard has an infant son. Warns again against gaming and those who indulge in it. Mentions Mr. T[homas] McComb and Mr. J. Clayton. Is delighted "to read y[ou]r Sentiments on Religion." Complains of not hearing from George.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 21.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Oct. 31, [1796].

Has spent a tiring week preparing "the House in Market St." for occupancy. It is "not as large as I could wish . . . Tom [Cadwalader] is to have a small bed in the Tea Room which I can move out occasionally." Being "next door to Betsy" [Travis] and near other relatives is, however, an advantage. Her new address is High [Market] St. between 8th and 9th. "Mrs. [Elizabeth] Ferguson has out lived all her near connexions; her husband is alive but they are at variance on acc[oun]t of halfpenny matters, which is worse than death. . . . "

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.6cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from W[ILLIAMINA] S. E. BERRIEN, Louis Ville, Ga., Nov. . . ., 1796.

Acknowledges a letter of condolence on the death of her brother [Dr. James W. Moore], to whom she was greatly attached. Appreciates Mrs. Ridgely's kindness to him. Hopes the correspondence between the families may continue. Refers to her mother in Savannah, to [her husband] Major Berrien and her "little family."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 30.5cm.

MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, High Sts. between 8th & 9th, Philadelphia, from MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Nov. 6, 1796.

Discusses the settlement of Dr. [Charles] Ridgely's estate and asks Mrs. Cadwalader to deliver a message concerning it to Mr. [Phineas] Bond. Expresses amazement at certain developments in the settlement of her father's estate, reminding her niece of a conversation they once had about the purchase of a carriage from the share they then both expected would fall to Mrs. Ridgely. Apologizes for having written of a disagreeable subject. Regrets missing the opportunity to purchase "a chair" through Franks Hamilton. Is sorry for Tom [Cadwalader] who must occupy a small chamber his mother sometimes needs for guests. Worries about Mrs. Cadwalader's health.

Cy. U. 3 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Philad[elphia], Nov. 12, [1796].

Was amazed and hurt at her aunt's response to her report on the "Moore Hall" settlement. Defends her parents and brother and denies that any living person has any responsibility for the unsatisfactory condition of the estate of her grandfather [William Moore]. Has not shown the letter to her brother, believing it would cause a permanent breach between the families. Has to pay postage [in Philadelphia] on letters even when it has been prepaid in Dover. Mentions Tom [Cadwalader], Mrs. [Jacob] Jones and Franks Hamilton.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Nov. 17, 1796.

Comments on the [Presidential] election returns, naming the Delaware Electors—"all Fed's." Tells about crops. Mrs. Nixon has a tiny infant, Charlesina Caroline. Feels no longer obligated to assist [former servant or slave] Rachel and her two youngest children who ungratefully failed even to see Mrs. Hamilton in Philadelphia, where a place had been secured for her. Mr. [Richard] Bassett has brought his wife to Dover and "let the place at Bohemia." The usual "Autumn fevers" have not appeared this season. It is difficult to collect money even for necessities.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.4cm. x 21cm.

RICHARD COOPER, [Dover], from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Nov. 22, 1796.

Complains to the magistrate of objectionable tenants in the house formerly occupied by John Emery's family. Desires that the infamous characters in the house be ordered to move or give security for good behavior.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Nov. 25, [1796].

Writes hastily of their account, referring to "a chair" purchased by Franks Hamilton, "Willy's" [Ridgely] linen, some muslin, and the recently secured bank shares. Complains of not hearing from Mrs. Ridgely and will soon think she wants "to partake of a cold Partridge Pie."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.8cm. x 23.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] A[BIGAIL] H[AMILTON, Philadelphia, ante Dec., 1796].

Was pleased to learn Mrs. Ridgely is recovering. Is busy because of "the addition to my family." Refers to Fanny Bond, Mrs. [John] Travis, and to the deaths of Peggy Milagon, Mrs. Markoe (née Boynton), Mrs. Beven the shop keeper, and "old Mrs. Petter's, Dick's mother." Weddings "are not in fashion." Mentions "De Port's letter" to Mr. Ridgely, sent by Mr. McLane. Hopes purchases made by Molly . . . were satisfactory. Inquires about a prospective wedding [in the Ridgely family].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15.7cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 3, 1796.

Discusses accounts and a misunderstanding about postage. Says the shallops will not sail again this winter as it has been very cold for the past ten days.

Cy. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Dec. 14, [1796].

Announces the death of Fanny Bond. Hopes Mrs. [Abigail] Hamilton had prepared the Ridgely family for the news.

A. N. S. 1 p. 18cm. x 22cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Dec. 25, 1796.

Warns Mrs. Ridgely against a visitor who has been proven disreputable since his letter of introduction was obtained. [Mrs. Phineas Bond] is still "deeply affected" by [Fanny Bond's death], which, though she had been seriously ill, came unexpectedly. Hopes and now believes no breach between them has occurred because of the letters [relating to the "Moore Hall" settlement]. Is glad Mrs. Ridgely's stock is in the United States rather than the Pennsylvania Bank for the latter has been mismanaged. Appreciates the apples sent her, which have kept exceptionally well. Refers to Fanny Bond's fondness for "Willy" and Mary [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from ANN [MRS. THOS. WM.] MOORE, [Brooklyn, N. Y., c. 1797].

Has heard from her husband, who is well and in hopes of being soon provided for "for life." Supposes his failure to write to Mrs. Ridgely and Jane [Jones] is due to his lack of definite good news and worry about his daughter "Willy" [Moore], who is suffering from cancer. Sturge]Moore] is considering settling in America, which would please his wife. Speaks of her daughter and son-in-law, Jane and [Jacob] Jones, and of Mrs. Ridgely's family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Jan. 7, 1797.

Refers to the departure of an unwelcome visitor whose least vice was lying. Tells of the wretched condition of Mrs. [Phineas] Bond, the insanity of Mrs. Wharton, and the recovery of Mrs. Cruger who poisoned her child by mistake.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], Jan. 15, 1797.

Recommends James Gibson or John Reed, "my relation", if she intends to sue [Rev. Samuel] Magaw for his debt. "Older lawyers are more dilatory". Tom [Cadwalader] still seems content in his [law] studies with [Mr.] Tilghman, "but he is only a new Broom." [Mrs. Phineas Bond] shows no improvement and Betsy [Travis] is in poor health. Comments acidly on Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett who "is not fit to be a mother", and on "the Person she patronized." A friend wishes to "procure 400 wt. of good bacon at Dover" to be delivered when the river opens.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Jan. 21, 1797.

"I suppose in your next I shall hear "Willy" is married." Was hurt at Dr. [Edward] Miller's failure to call as he passed through Philadelphia, reputedly "on his way to be married." Can purchase an excellent 88-piece set of china for $70.00, but no "handsome" tea sets are available; even common cups and saucers are $6.00 a dozen. Offers two English bonnets and cloaks, which she describes, and a Dunstable bonnet if the girls care to buy them. Further discusses the affairs of the objectionable relative. Mrs. B. . . . is unaware that her husband's withdrawal from the bank was forced. They will retire to his estate near Wilmington in the spring. Bank stock remains a preferred investment. Believes Fanny Bond knew her condition was grave.

A. L. [S. torn] 4 pp. 18cm. x 22.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Jan. 28, [1797].

Hopes to hear soon of "Willy's" [Ridgely] marriage. Mentions the expected marriage of "N. B." and Maria . . ., with the comments of "Mrs. B." and Mrs. H[amilton]. Alludes to a family feud. Tells of a fire in which Brown, the printer, lost his entire family, another in which Dr. Andrews lost a child, and a third "imputed to malice, . . . but it is a subject that should never be mentioned before Servants or ignorant People of any kind." Invites Mrs. Ridgely and her family to visit, for though her house is small she has a guest room. Mrs. Ridgely could change with Tom [Cadwalader] if she objects to climbing two flights of stairs.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 29, 1797.

The weather has been "uncommonly variable", which may explain numerous sudden deaths in the county. Wakeman Vicory and Zadok Truitt are the only victims she knew. Describes the treatment given Dr. [Abraham] Ridgely, who is convalescent after several weeks' illness. Was relieved to learn that [her niece] Mrs. [Williamina] Berrien had moved from Savannah to Louis Ville, [Georgia] before "the terrible fires" in the former town. "Tark and Tyger [George's dogs] are both well and what is of more consequence my colts are very beautiful and in fine order." Expects a good price for two of them in the spring. Inquires about the recent school play.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17.5cm. x 21.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Feb. 12, 1797.

Regrets Mrs. Ridgely's poor health but is certain she has "no propensity to a consumption." Is worried about "Willy's" [Ridgely] postponed marriage, fearing "a put off is a break off." Had supposed her already gone to New York. Believes the Bank entirely safe since "the Cash is kept in Iron Chests in deep arches and there are always Centinals [sic]." Always sends her own money there for security, but fears to advise. "Great speculations are making in Morris's Notes" which are quoted "as low as a shilling in a pound." If she had the money she would risk £100 as she might in a lottery, but would not "venture enough to keep me awake one Hour." Recommends Mrs. Sidney Howel and her daughter Mrs. Hutchison, of Church Alley, as people with whom Nancy [Ridgely] might board. Had supposed she would be sent to New York with "Willy". Hopes for a visit from the family when the roads are good. A set of china consisting of 6 dozen shallow plates, 3 dozen "deep ditto", 2 dozen dessert, 18 dishes, 2 large tureens, 4 small tureens, 4 sauce boats and stands, 6 salt cellars, 4 pudding dishes and 2 salad bowls costs $80.00. [Rev. Samuel] Magaw has repaid $320.00 on his bond and promises the rest promptly. She has reserved a set of *Camilla* for Mrs. Ridgely.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18.3cm. x 22cm.

MRS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, Carlisle, [Penna.], Feb. 14, 1797.

"Dear Madam, I have just embraced my pen to answer your letter . . . " This year's college play was excellently received. Describes the costumes, particularly his own in which he "looked extreamly like a bride." The proceeds "went to the Poor about town." Is sorry to hear Dover is "so unhealthy for it is the spot which contains everything that is dear to me." Insists that his two dogs are of more consequence to him than his mother's beautiful colts. Would not part with them "for all the colts that ever I saw." Warns her of an epidemic among stock. Mentions John Hillyard.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Feb. 18, [1797].

Received a bank dividend of £30. Russia sheeting "is monstrously high", about 3 shillings 9 pence for brown and 5 shillings for white. Comments on Mrs. Ridgely's accuracy in keeping accounts. Cannot obtain the sort of place [for Ann Ridgely] her mother wants, for the few who employ masters in their families "are above taking in a child to board." [Robert Morris'] notes are not available in the small denomination Mrs. Ridgely mentions. From $2000 to $5000 are the smallest. Would herself gamble $400.00 if she had it, "though I do not advise it as a risque." Alludes to "Miss V[ining]'s strange history."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 19, 1797.

Is uneasy at her sons' failure to write frequently. Asks when Henry will take his degree, where he wishes to study afterwards, how George is progressing, and what cousin Charles Smith's professional reputation is. Begs both to be diligent in their studies, calling attention to the fourth chapter of Proverbs as stating the goal on which she has set her heart for her sons: Wisdom leading to well-adjusted and socially useful lives, not to "exalted Stations, . . . wealth and grandeur." Thinks "grandeur far from desirable", and points out that the advantage she wishes for them is one open to all.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from HENRY M. RIDGELY, Carlisle, [Penna.], Feb. 27, 1797.

Asks for about $150.00 to pay Mr. [Wm.] Thomson's account and other expenses. Has a record of all money spent. Reminds his mother that "wood, candles, etc." must be purchased and everything is high. His class will "not commence untill Fall as we are not fit to stand an examination on the mathematics." He is to speak [February] 21 on "Scepticism." Would like to study law with Charles Smith at Lancaster, for he is highly thought of, and his classmate [Moses] Montgomery, whose brother married Miss Rogison, will study in the same town. Believes George would progress faster in mathematics "with a good english master" for the teacher at the college, though an expert mathematician, "lets the boys study if they please."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Mar. 5, [1797].

Has a long letter written "to go by Jeffery" but wishes Mrs. Ridgely to know at once that none of her money, fortunately, has been invested in [Robert] M[orris]'s notes. Mentions Betsy [Travis], her mother and brother.

A. N. S. 1 p. 18.3cm. x 22.5cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], Feb. 20, Mar. 8, Mar. 28, 1797.

Discusses [Robert] Morris' note issue in much detail; she regards it as a "lottery" rather than an investment. Reports a divorce scandal involving Nancy Allen and [Mr.] Greenleaf, and gossips about Mrs. . . . Lawrence. "This is a strange affair of Miss [Mary] Vining's; tho' 'none but the brave deserve the fair' and that he [Gen. Anthony Wayne] was brave is undoubted, but such a weather-beaten, vulgar, affected, old soldier I should have thought would not have suited her refinement." Worries about Mrs. Ridgely's illness, and invites her and the girls to visit. Outlines various possibilities for Ann's [Ridgely] schooling, mentioning Lizzie Irvine and Mrs. Donald. Speaks of her sisters Betsy [Travis] and [the late] Fanny [Bond], of their mother, of a final break with Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett, and of [Sally Goldsborough's] affairs and family. Unflatteringly describes the child's grandfather, Dr. [Wm.] Smith. Alludes with apprehension to "the hopeful youth", Mrs. [T. W.] Moore, and Sturge Moore. Writes on March 8 that the "Morris paper" is considered worthless and none has been bought for Mrs. Ridgely. She herself is cured of speculating. Has everything Mrs. Ridgely ordered except the Antwerp raspberry. Mrs. Powel attended the ball on Washington's birthday, but discounts rumors of her remarriage. Mentions Major Butler. Reviews *Camilla,* which she is sending and which she prefers even to *Cecelia.* Robert Morris and [Mr.] Nicholson are believed bankrupt, and the former's house and furnishings are advertised by the Sheriff. The Wilson family are among the many ruined by their failure. Molly Hamilton is reported engaged to Mr. Hope, who also noticed Miss Bingham during his visit. "The Duke of Orleans is said to be paying his addresses to Abby Willing." The Magaw debt is in Mr. Tilghman's hands for collection. Obtained for Mrs. Ridgely "a little pot of ginger" from Mrs. Liston. Is worried over her continued illness. Gossips about Mrs. B[lodgett]. On March 28 she adds that she is relieved to learn Mrs. Ridgely is recovering. Hopes she will be more careful of her health. [Robert]

Morris "is generally supposed to be ruined." Sends a receipt for the bank stock dividend. Says Russia sheeting is cheaper than she supposed.

A. L. S. 20 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.4cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from GEO[RGE] W. and HENRY M. RIDGELY, Carlisle, [Penna.], Mar. 19, 1797.

George reports that Harry will speak after the coming public examinations but that he himself was not invited to. Believes he would have declined because of the protest [Wm.] Thomson made against his taking part in the play, on the ground that acting was sinful. Thinks the teacher had no right to interfere with a production approved by a trustee and the rest of the faculty. Fifty-one students are enrolled. "Take care of my Dogs."

Henry writes urgently for money to pay their board, for which Mr. Thomson has asked.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from BENJAMIN A. COOMBE, Esq., Frederica, [Del.], Mar. 27, 1797.

The interest due Mrs. Ridgely is owed by the estate of his brother, John [Coombe], not by his father. As administrator he will call to settle the debt, but he thinks the bill may have to be proved before it will pass the Register.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 33cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], April 18, 1797.

The silk, canvass and copy of *Camilla* will be sent at once. The plays have not been delivered and a freezing snow prevents her from sending for them. Fears for the fruit crop.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.6cm. x 33cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Philadelphia], April 18, [1797].

Refers to sewing silk, English cotton thread, Antwerp raspberry plants, plays, and a copy of *Camilla,* all ordered by Mrs. Ridgely. Begs her to move to the healthier locality of Wilmington or "the Turnpike." Alludes to her recent serious illness. The English Commissioners have quarters at Mrs. Hand's. Dreads the French getting "a footing among us." Mentions Mr. Huston, Mr. Burrows, Hatfield Coningham, "Bartram's", Mrs. "Willy" [Pawling] and children, Mrs. Copper (niece of Nathan Pawling), and [Mr.] Swanwick. Gives the recipe for a cough remedy of Indian turnip and molasses.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], April 23, 1797.

Reproves her sons for failure to write and reminds them "an easy manner of writing" is an important skill learned only by practice. Is pleased with a newspaper report of the recent examination at D[ickinson] College. Fears war with [France], but hopes for peace. Urges her sons to prepare themselves for worthy citizenship and well-adjusted "Domestic Life", and to avoid gaming or idleness during vacation. Discusses Henry's plans for legal study and George's intention of becoming a merchant. Mentions Cousin Charles Smith.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.3cm. x 21.4cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Philadelphia], April 28, [1797].

Thinks the £75 yearly board Mrs. Donald asks for Nancy [Ridgely] is high, but the place is otherwise excellent. Mrs. Ridgely must in addition furnish her bed. Plans a ten-day trip to Lancaster with Betsy [Travis] and urges the Ridgelys to visit when she returns. Mrs. Wharton has recovered her sanity and is now at Burlington with Mrs. Wallace. Thread is $1.50 per ounce. Sends papers, one containing "Brown's Tragedy", the other telling of "Morris, Nicholson and Greenleaf. The paper . . . may be had for 6 pence in the £ but nobody touches it." Mrs. Daily's, on the Point No Point Road, is not a suitable place for Nancy.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 32.5cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.[A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], May 7, 1797.

"Hearing that you, Harry, spent almost every Even[in]g at Tavern, and in frolic & Dancing, has been almost too much for me." Even being left a widow with five small children, "as it were a stranger here" caused her less anguish than this disappointment in her son. Begs him "to be wise in time . . . [and] return to virtue" for his own sake, for hers, and to be worthy of his father's name. Preston Young's son, nephew of Mrs. . . . Williams, was killed by lightning during the most violent electrical storm ever known in the locality. Discusses cravats and other accessories bought for the boys. Fears John Hillyard may be withdrawn from college if "Mr. Johnston (Mr. Read's son-in-law)" can be persuaded to teach on his farm. Speaks of John Hillyard's father, Charles Hillyard, and of his grandfather.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], May 14, [1797].

Has just returned. Their trip greatly benefitted Betsy [Travis] and the country was "charming." Hopes Mrs. Ridgely will soon arrive. Since Mrs. Donald includes washing and mending in the £75 board, she does not believe Nancy [Ridgely] can be placed better. Hopes "Willy" and Mary [Ridgely] come with their mother as the room is large enough for all. "I am to dine with Mamma [Mrs. Phineas Bond] and must do up my Head a little."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22.4cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], May 21, 1797.

Harry's explanation of the report concerning him satisfies her completely. She is glad for him to take dancing lessons since she considers "easy, unaffected and graceful" manners and carriage essential for her sons as well as her daughters. Begs him to forgive John Hillyard for the untrue report he brought and to guide the unfortunate lad if he can. "Maybe he thinks drunkenness no crime or disgrace." Describes two new colts, one of which is Harry's. Refers to the linens now ready to send, and to a misspelling she has just noticed in her own letter.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], May 26, 1797.

Wishes him to begin the study of law promptly after graduation. Asks if he can live in Charles Smith's family, and upon what terms, if she sends him to Lancaster rather than Philadelphia. Warns him to use the enclosed $50.00 frugally since collections are very difficult. Approves the President's [John Adams] address to Congress, as a needed warning "to the French Directory . . . [and to] the base French

Americans." Mentions brother N[icholas] Ridgely, Mr. Clayton, Miss . . . Killen's new suitor, and an excellent crop of both cultivated and wild strawberries.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], May 29, [c. 1797].

Approves Mrs. Ridgely's plan of taking a short trip for her health and then remaining home till after harvest. Offers advice about roads to Lancaster and Downingtown and the accommodations and prices at the inns. Paid only $1.00 for dinner for three at Downing's. Recommends Mrs. Donald's for Ann [Ridgely] but thinks arrangements must be made promptly. The following week she moves to "Governor Mifflin's House which Mr. Runole has bought." It is large enough and conveniently located, so she does not regret the change, though she spent considerable on the small house during her brief stay. Extends a pressing invitation to visit. Disapproves the samples of muslin sent and does not think they can be matched, but will try. "Nothing is seen here on genteel People but white and certainly nothing is so pretty." Saw "a waggon go through our Street without Horses" and looks forward to owning one so she can be free of the danger of "drunken coachmen or . . . wild horses." Fresh vegetables and fruit are coming into market. Sending some from Dover would be too much trouble for Mrs. Ridgely.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.5cm. x 33.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], June 10, [1797].

Silk for a gown and ink powder are ready to be sent but Mrs. Ridgely's neighbor has not called for them. Moves next week and dreads the bustle and confusion of it, though she never liked the house she is leaving. Complains of having been "driven from House to House" lately. Her future address is #248 High St., between 7th and 8th. Betsy [Travis] and family are at Germantown for the summer. Thinks highly of Charles Smith, of Lancaster, but suggests that [Henry Ridgely] should study law where he is to practice. Refers to Mrs. [Elizabeth] Ferguson and her estranged husband, Mrs. Reade, and Mrs. Duché. Wishes Mrs. Ridgely to check their account. Will make up the purchase price of her additional bank share. Refused two requests to visit Mrs. [Sam'l] Blodgett. Refers to "Mr. Moore" the objectionable relative. Her uncle [Thos. Wm. Moore] has not yet secured an appointment but his pension is 100 guineas yearly. Pities "the poor little

Woman" [Jane Jones] and wonders at the neglect of certain parents. Refers to another "little woman in England" [Mrs. Sturge Moore] whose husband is still in America and whose father's presence must be a comfort. Lists recent purchases.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21cm. x 33.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], June 16-18, 1797.

Has had difficulty in finding a way of sending a package since John Hillyard was kept at home by a broken arm. Inquires about Henry's speech at the last examination and requests a copy. Mr. . . . Johnson has an infant son. His family will soon move to a house on Mr. Hillyard's land, where he will have a school. Begs her son not to "say an angry word" to John Hillyard for bringing home an untrue report of his conduct. "It w[oul]d make me very unhappy to find you c[oul]d not forgive him."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.7cm. x 20cm.

MRS. ELIZABETH [GRAEME] FERGUSON, Bellet, Montgomery County, care of MRS. G. MEAD, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], June 20, 1797.

Recalls their friendship, saying ". . . from my early Infancy I always delighted in ev'ry opportunity of being in your Company and often, very often, for upwards of Eleven years have regretted my being at so great a distance from the place of your abode . . . " Thanks her for poems and says that her children are fond of poetry. Comments on the sudden death of Mrs. Duché. Extends compliments to Miss Steadman.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 33cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Dover, July 9, 1797.

Mentions recent deaths of Nancy Townsend, Mrs. Alexander Porter of New Castle, and Nancy Frazer, a student at Mrs. Groombridge's Boarding School in Philadelphia. Also speaks of Miss . . . Bayard, sister of the former Miss [Ann] Bassett's husband. Is glad Senator Blount of Tennessee, who has disgraced his country, is not "a professed Fed., . . . [and] has been regularly blating against the British Treaty." Mr. Relfe lost his hand in a 4th of July accident at Milford. "Little Sarah" [a slave] recently bore a seventh daughter. Mrs. [Jacob] Jones is an excellent wife.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.7cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], July 14, [c. 1797].

Is concerned at not hearing from Dover. Refers to a dress Mrs. Hamilton has for Mary [Ridgely] and to some silk, delivery of which has not been acknowledged. Hopes Mrs. Ridgely will take the planned trip and will visit Philadelphia. Tells of Nancy [Kemble?] who is extremely happy in her marriage and has a lovely home. Betsy McCall has an infant son. Mr. McDonald "one of the Commissioners from England", Wm. Willing, "Tom's [Calwalader] dear friend", and Tom Meredith were recent dinner guests. Refers to Sally [Goldsborough] and the Smith family, and to lottery tickets and bank dividends.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Philad[elphi]a, July 22, [1797].

Has not yet shopped for Mrs. Ridgely's linens, but understands prices are very high. Stockings are 9 shillings 6½ pence a pair. Additional Bank stock will not be purchased till Mr. [John] Travis returns from Boston. More silk like the gown can be obtained. Short sleeves are fashionable. The Hamiltons can give information about Mrs. Beck's school. "I abhor Boarding Schools, now more than ever." Thinks Mrs. Donald's is the best situation for Ann [Ridgely], but hopes her mother will come up soon and decide for herself. Itemizes a small account, including ink powder, 1 shilling 10½ pence, and *Columbus,* price unlisted. Mrs. Rusmire's husband recently died. Mentions [Rev. Samuel] Magaw's debt.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Aug. 2, 1797.

Sends brown cloth for coats, black silk for breeches, two waistcoats and silk stockings for each of the boys. Reminds them that coats of the newest style are fuller and shorter than the old. Extra material should be saved for mending. Is "frightened" at the expenses, having supposed the sum she previously sent after raising it with difficulty covered the board bill. Asks about Henry's Commencement speech and if George will be graduated. Mentions "Jack (Silversmith)", Mrs. Hamilton, and Mrs. . . . Rusmier, an "ancient and very amiable relation", recently widowed. Alludes to "Blount's treachery."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Aug. 13, 1797.

Complains of the worst plague of mosquitoes she remembers in her whole residence in Kent County. The neighborhood, however, remains healthy. "The Inhabitants . . . sh[oul]d think with Dr. [Benjamin] Rush that frequent bleeding is the best mode of escaping fevers." Explains how she has directed the package of clothing sent recently. "Brother N[icholas Ridgely] is a man of few words (unless in his professional line)", or unless he is complaining over some slight illness, so his silence indicates no lack of affection. Refers to Mr. & Mrs. Johnson and their eleven-weeks-old son, Miss Reed, and cousin Jane [Jones] and her three-weeks old son [William Jones]. Further describes Henry's colt.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.3cm. x 21.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Aug. 19, 1797.

Can attend to no more errands as the threat of yellow fever has disrupted business. Does not think the epidemic is likely to be as bad as in [17]93. If she leaves town, she will go to "an unfinished House Doct[o]r Smith is building for Sally" [Goldsborough]. Mrs. Smith (née Polly Peters), her son, Nat. Lewis and the merchant [Mr.] Camel are the only fever victims "of any note." Discusses bank business, [Rev. Sam'l] Magaw's debt and the purchase of linen. Is uneasy about [her sister] Betsy [Travis]. Advises against purchasing Moore's *Edward* which is not considered equal to *Telucco.* "Make me a memorandum of the state of our account in case of an accident."

A. L. S. 7 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Sept. 3, 1797.

Prefers her sons to remain at Carlisle until they receive further word of health conditions at Wilmington and N[ew] Castle. Dysentery is epidemic in Baltimore and yellow fever is reported there. Describes crowding of towns of the entire region by Philadelphians fleeing the yellow fever. Dover's reputation for unhealthful climate causes it to be shunned by refugees. Mr. [James] Ralston, ill of "a nervous fever . . . undoubtedly brought on by abstaining from animal food and from every kind of drink, water excepted", is recovering. Mentions his parents. Wishes Henry to learn her nephew, C[harles] Smith's, terms for legal instruction. Gives a recipe for a remedy for dysentery. Mentions Mrs. Nixon and her four daughters, and Mr. Montgomery.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.8cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Sept. 10, 1797.

Cautions her sons to stop nowhere any longer than necessary on their return trip, for fear of contagion from Philadelphia refugees. Suggests they come through Downing's Town and Wilmington. Fever has appeared in the latter town and at "Duck Creek X [Cross] roads." Mr. [Jas.] Ralston is convalescent. Describes a balloon ascent by one Mr. Bringhurst, commenting "it must be a poor fellow indeed who cannot find better employment." The epidemic has delayed arrangements for George's apprenticeship. Fears property damage and the possibility of serious [French] sabotage in deserted Philadelphia. Comments on the remarriage of Wm. Key's widow to Timothy Lister, and of "old Mrs. Clarke." Betsey Townshend is to marry soon.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Sept. 17, 1797.

Sends a further installment of funds for paying all obligations at Carlisle. Hesitates to send him to Lancaster if he cannot stay in Mr. Smith's family, for she hears there is almost as much "extravagance, frolicking and idle dissipation there as in Philadelphia." Brother Abraham Ridgely has been seriously ill. The entire Batson family is sick. Mr. [Jas.] Ralston is recovering.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], Oct. 5, 1797.

Has just returned after ten weeks' absence. She did as Mrs. Ridgely asked about the money for the boys, but hopes the letter to them containing $70.00 has been delivered, as three to her have just arrived at once. Spent the summer in a half-finished house on Dr. [Wm.] Smith's estate; comments scathingly on him. Tells of Sally [Goldsborough and her brothers]; Fanny, infant of Betsy [Travis]; Mrs. Hayward's coming marriage to Charles Bearring; and Marie Blodgett's wedding. Has heard that Miss [Elizabeth] Freeman is married. Inquires if "Willy" [Ridgely] received her letter. Mrs. Lisle is ill following the birth of her daughter.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 33cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], Oct. 8, 1797.

"I am really amazed at the expenses of Carlisle", but she sends the money, raised with much difficulty, to pay the rest of their bills. Brother Abraham [Ridgely] has recovered. Points out that four years' law study, to which Henry has objected, is usual and necessary, that his brother [Nicholas] spent even longer, and that he will be ready to practice at twenty-two, a customary age for a professional man. Mr. [Jas.] Ralston, though nearly twenty-three and able to get a sizable medical practice, will not undertake it before spring. Nicholas Ridgely will retire in about four years, leaving an excellent opening for his younger brother at that time. Worries about bad roads her sons must use to return home.

A. L. [S. implied] 3 pp. 18.7cm. x 22.8cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from N. BOYER, [n. p.], Oct. 14, 1797.

Has sent a small sum "by the boy" but a balance remains due Mrs. Ridgely.

A. N. S. 1 p. 18.5cm. x 10cm.

HON. THOMAS SMITH, Falls of Schuylkill, Penna., from [MRS.[A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Oct. 29, 1797.

Has just learned that a letter sent by mail, containing money for discharging her sons' obligations at Carlisle, has not been received, and their return has consequently been delayed. Asks if he can have some friend in that town advance what they need, to be repaid at once from her funds in Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader's hands.

Cy. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 24cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] MARY RUSMEYER, Litiz, [Penna.], Oct. 30, 1797.

Acknowledges a letter of sympathy received after the death of her husband. Writes of him, and of her religious convictions. Refers to "my Polly Shropp."

A. N. S. 1 p. 11cm. x 19.7cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from ANN [MRS. THOS. WM.] MOORE, [Brooklyn, N. Y.], Nov. 6, 1797.

Fears her recent letters to Dover have miscarried. Her husband is well, but has not yet received his appointment. Hopes the Ridgely family are now all well. Refers to her daughters Mrs. [Jacob] Jones, Mrs. [Ann] Sands and Mrs. Campbell, to Mr. [Jacob] Jones and [William Jones], and to "Willy" [Mrs. Sturge Moore] in England and her two children. "The fever has abated in New York." Andrew Smyth's wife is dead.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 15.8cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Nov. 22, 1797.

Asks further instructions about the bank business interrupted by the epidemic during the summer. Hears [Thos. Wm. Moore] has been recommended to the Duke of York for "the 1st Invalid Company that is vacant." His daughter, "Willy" [Mrs. Sturge Moore] wishes to send her son to America. Rejoices that she herself and Mrs. Ridgely have escaped "the family mania" for "parting with children. . . . I would rather bind my son to a good Cob[b]ler under my own eye than send him to a distant country to live dependent on an Angel." Mrs. Havard has married Charles Bearing. Mamma [Mrs. Phineas Bond] and the Travis family are "pretty well." Speaks of lottery tickets of her own and Mrs. Ridgely's. Comments on the many "ruined speculators" and is grateful her children's prospects are as good as they are. Mrs. Lisle is recovering. "Molly Hamilton's *Hope*" has gone home and "she is now Hopeless." Does not know the name of Miss [Elizabeth] Freeman's husband. Begs that her letters, always hastily written, be burned. Inquires about Mrs. Nixon and Betsy [Loockerman].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21cm. x 33.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Dec. 25, 1797.

Is glad Mrs. Ridgely is recovering after her "annual illness" which she suspects is rheumatism. Recommends essense of mustard as a cure. Warns of an "impudent" relative in the neighborhood who "has played tricks that might hang him." Mrs. [Williamina] Pawling is grief-stricken over the death of her son Thomas [Pawling], as is Mrs. Moore. Mentions Stephen Moore. Teases Mary [Ridgely] about Richard Smith. "A fat Senator with a palace in Huntington is not to be despised."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 33.5cm.

CHARLES SMITH, Esq., [Lancaster, Penna.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 27, 1797.

Approves her son Henry's preference for studying law at Lancaster rather than in his brother N[icholas] Ridgely's office if satisfactory terms can be arranged, "as I think the difference of climate a matter of too much consequence to be overlook'd." She must, however, know the exact conditions before making any final engagement since her means are limited. Wishes Henry to board "in a very regular and reputable family."

Cy. S. 2 pp. 13cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER and MRS. [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Dec. 28, 1797.

The family will be delighted to see Mary [Ridgely]. Supposes Harry [Ridgely] will accompany Ch[arle]s Smith to Lancaster if he arrives by Monday. Mentions Mrs. Meredith.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.8cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES SMITH, Philadelphia, Dec. 31, 1797.

Returns tomorrow to Lancaster, taking Henry [Ridgely] with him. Promises to pay close attention to his advancement and give him the use of "one of the most perfect Law-Libraries in the United States." Declines to accept a fee. Regrets that he cannot board him in his own home, but his young family makes it inconvenient for his wife, whose cousin, Mr. Shippen, they also declined to board. Invites Mrs. Ridgely and the girls to visit.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.7cm. x 22.8cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, [Penna.], Jan. 3, 1798.

Arrived safely at Lancaster. Boards with Mr. Kerr at "twenty shillings a week exclusive of washing. . . . He finds us in candles, etc. . . . " Is Mr. [Charles] Smith's only student. Comments on his excellent law library and "good private one."

A. L. S. 1 p. 18cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS[M[ARY] RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], Jan. 3, 1798.

Alludes to her mother's failure to receive a letter she wrote from Wilmington, and to her brother Harry's departure for Lancaster. Regrets offending sister Williamina, "but leave taking is a very unnecessary thing and I am . . . much averse to it." Needs more than the $100.00 she brought with her, if she is to attend the assembly. Thinks it unfair to pay from her current allowance for the shoes ordered last fall. Enjoyed an evening at Mrs. [Sam'l] Blodgett's, though the hostess as usual left her guests and went to the theatre. Admires the two eldest Travis children. Fears her fiance's illness has delayed Maria Blodgett's wedding "forever", though "Becky [Blodgett] talks quite publicly" of the event. Wm. Willing is "the most beautiful lad I ever beheld" and much admired by the young ladies. Mrs. [Williamina] Pawling recently lost an exceptionally attractive and helpful son. [Mr.] Swanwick is very ill. Mr. Duché died Wednesday. The dividend is $100.00 instead of the usual $80.00. An excellent carpet, "large enough for either of our rooms", can be bought for about $22.00, and "blue e[d]g[e]d ware . . . for a very low price, a Dol[lar] a doz[e]n for plates, . . . " Speaks of the Misses Blodgett and their brother, Miss Cadwalader and her brother, Miss Clymer, the Misses Gibson, Mr. Hare, Anna Smith and her father, Mrs. F[erguson?], Mrs. Todd, and Mrs. Cadwalader. Fanny Cad[walader] will "go into company . . . next winter." Can compare Mr. [Robert] Morris' new house to "nothing but a clump of oysters" but thinks "tis worth while to ride 50 miles to see the New Bank . . . so very elegant, so superb I cannot give you an idea of it."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 23.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, at MR. KERR'S, Lancaster, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 9, 1798.

Was relieved to learn of his arrival in Lancaster and Mary's in Philadelphia, for she feared the bad roads and the possibility that the stage drivers would be "careless or drunken and ill-behaved." Wishes him to consult Mr. [Charles] Smith "on all occasions." Believes her son's devoted application to the study of law will repay his cousin for his generosity in taking him without a fee. Inquires about his boarding place, which she hopes is as "regular and respectable" as Mr. [Wm.] Thomson's home. Thinks 20 shillings a week is high for board. Mentions his fellow-boarder Mr. Frazer, Mr. [Charles] Smith's small daughter, Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett's infant, and his brother George [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 21.3cm.

[MISS MARY RIDGELY, Philadelphia], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 30, 1798.

Does not believe Dr. [Samuel] Magaw can produce any valid account against [Dr. Charles Ridgely's] estate. Refers to a letter of his to her Sept. 28, 1796 indicating that at that time he planned to enter no claim. Thanks Mr. [Phineas] Bond and Mr. Tilghman for their efforts on her behalf, and hopes they will soon be successful in securing the balance due her.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], Feb. 4, [1798].

Gives an account of Mary [Ridgely] who is much admired in Philadelphia, "but not in the least hurt by it." Is pleased that she shows no indication of "a dissipated turn", and seems to enjoy home more than parties. Defends her against Mrs. Hamilton's charge of having neglected their family, from whom she has had no formal invitations, though they have invited Richard Smith. "The Chews . . . , Mrs. Tilghman and Mrs. Nicklin excepted," have not called. Mary attended the Ross' ball. Wishes her mother would insist upon her wearing a flannel jacket, for she goes "half naked" with "nothing under her Gown, and in our variable climate I look upon it as certain destruction." Is "not so sanguine" as formerly about an attraction between Mary and "our cousin the Senator." She and Richard Smith are "making a noise about me with their flirting." Mentions the bank business and [Rev. Samuel] Magaw's debt, recently purchased materials, Mr. Tilghman, Mr. Ross, Molly and Peggy Hamilton, Becky Bond, Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett and Sally [Goldsborough]. Complains that "Willy" [Ridgely] has long appeared not to return her affection.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.8cm. x 33.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 11, 1798.

Is glad Henry is spending so much time at study, and is willing for him to move nearer the office if Mr. [Charles] Smith approves the family. Mr. Sipple and Mr. W. K. Boyer recently died. C. Hillyard is recovering from a serious illness. Mary "lives a gay life at Philad[elphi]a." Fears the bitter winter with little snow will injure the next season's crops. Comments at length on the insanity of young Thomas Tilton, whose misfortune she thinks is an inheritance from his mother's family. Mentions his uncle Dr. [James] Tilton.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from [DR.] A[BRAHAM] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 24, 1798.

Had understood that the rent he owed would be charged against his legacy and dividend from his father's estate. Has occupied the house less than four years, and will refuse any "order drawn in favour of Meeridith."

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia, Feb. 24, 1798].

Asks more specific information in regard to seeking a mercantile apprenticeship for George [Ridgely]. Recommends Mr. Reed but warns that places are now difficult to secure. Willing & Francis have seven apprentices. A youth in Philadelphia is subject to severe temptations so great care must be taken in finding lodgings for George. Suggests [Mr.] L[a] Grange, a Frenchman, but a person of exemplary character. Hopes for a visit from her soon. Tells of Mary's [Ridgely] social activities, mentioning a gift of "a handsome Bouquet of natural flowers" as an unusual courtesy. Discusses their accounts, mentioning tea, table clothes, books, and $50.00 for Mary. "Sally's Paa" [Charles Goldsborough] is in town. Refers to the Chevalier de Frier, Mrs. Liston, the Merediths, the Travis family, Judge Smith, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Sykes, Mr. [Nicholas?] Ridgely and her landlord Mr. . . . Rundle. "Mr. [Robert] Morris is in jail."

F[anny] C[adwalader] adds a note saying that Mary must stay till the weather is too warm for comfort in town.

A.L. S. 6 pp. 18.8cm. x 21cm.
21cm. x 33.5cm.

GEORGE TRUITT, [Sussex County, Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 28, 1798.

Asks his assistance in obtaining payment of a bond against the estate of his late brother, Zadoc Truitt, securing a sale of wheat to Truitt and Pennell. Explains the circumstances of the case.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Mar. 4, 1798.

Worries over Henry's failure to write. Does not intend to hurry Mary [Ridgely] home from Philadelphia, where she is "partaking of every genteel amusement" during her first visit to the City since she grew up. Names the guests expected the following day at the wedding of Miss [Elizabeth] L[oockerman] and Mr. M[iller]. Has declined an invitation because she hates the "great fuss" there is certain to be. Reproves Henry for failure to write to his brother George, who is so fond of him.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17.3cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Mar. 11, 1798.

Believes "our Cousin" wishes to marry Mary [Ridgely] but that she will refuse him. Comments on the cakes Mary has made, her needlework and her general competence as a housekeeper. Thinks Mrs. Ridgely was wise to educate her children "chiefly in the Country." Considers "a French War" certain. It is a poor time "to put a boy to a merchant" and all of them are "mad to go in the Army." Has almost quarrelled with her own son on the subject. Peter McCall and John Gibson were aboard a recently captured "East Indian ship." No vessels go out unarmed. Must dress, "as it is my family day."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 24, 1798.

Gives directions for having purchases delivered. Tells of Nancy's [Ridgely] amusement at little Betsy Alston who, in a children's discussion of the imminence of war, exclaimed "Thank heaven I have no poppa" to have to go. The child is an eight-year-old cousin of Sally Banning. Describes Sally as "very pretty, . . . well-behaved and sensible." Mentions a note for Mary Ridgely.

A. L. S. [fragment] 1 p. 17cm. x 21.5cm.

[MISS] MARY RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 24, 1798.

Asks for the purchase of household provisions to be returned in the shallop. Discusses Mary's return to Dover and tells of the five-week-old son of L[avina and John] Fisher. Sally Banning is described as "the best behav'd little girl this neighbourhood ever had to boast of."

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 21cm.

DR. ABRAHAM RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], April 12, 1798.

Protests to her step-son about ploughing and planting her son Harry's lot in Dover. Reminds him that she protected his rights while he was a minor and that she intends to do the same for Harry.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], April 29, 1798.

Wishes George's [Ridgely] writing would improve as Henry's has. Asks him to write often to his young sister Nancy, who composes an excellent letter but needs practice, particularly in penmanship. Regrets there is no good school for girls at Lancaster, as she hesitates to send her daughter to Philadelphia during the season for yellow fever. Will insist on George being permitted to leave during the dangerous season when he is placed there. Criticizes [Nicholas and Abraham Ridgely] for failure to pay proper attention to "old Mr. N. Warfield" during a recent visit. Aunt [Mrs. Thomas] Dorsey and family are well. Fears Mary [Ridgely] is "too fond of Philadelphia."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], April 30, [1798].

Regrets her inability to visit Dover now, for Tom [Cadwalader] is on "a ride" for his health and must return to Mr. Tilghman's law office when he recovers. "Lads of his age" are eager for war; four hundred last Saturday offered their services to the President. Dreads the prospect of Tom's studies being interrupted and the chance of his forming objectionable habits, but would not oppose his "taking part in the gen[era]l cause where his honor or reputation made it necessary." Mary [Ridgely] is preparing for Mrs. Liston's party. Is sorry her mother insists on her returning so soon. [John] Travis thinks Mr. [Peter] Blight a good master for George. Recommends drill in penmanship and arithmetic before he comes for an interview. Anti-French feeling is so strong she fears [Mr.] L[a] Grange's might not be a permanent or safe boarding place. Dr. [Wm.] Smith is "the most unfit person on earth" to take charge of his grandsons. He has neglected bills for clothing and educating [his granddaughter] Sally [Goldsborough], whose father plans to take her home to visit. The asparagus has arrived by [Capt.] Buckmaster.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 21cm. x 33.5cm.

[MISS] MARY [RIDGELY, Philadelphia], from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], May 10, 1798.

Hopes George [Ridgely] makes as good an impression upon Mr. [Peter] Blight as that merchant did upon Mary. Regrets the lad's poor penmanship but trusts he will now improve it. Chides Mary, "who can write a very pretty hand", for her recent careless scrawls. Will meet her daughter in Wilmington on her return rather than have George make an unnecessary trip to accompany her if he is to stay in the city. The lodgings chosen for him should be "where there is a master . . . to keep up good rules in the family." Trusts the discretion of all her children but wishes to protect them from influences they are not mature enough to cope with. Mrs. [Jas. A.] Bayard has an infant daughter. Greatly appreciates Mrs. [Cadwalader's] kindness to Mary. Refuses a cooler at the price offered and asks about sugar, coffee and knives. Complains of her vision.

A. Df. U. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], May 27, 1798.

Mary [Ridgely] is home after a gay winter in Philadelphia. Disapproves the life "the fashionable world now leads" and would by choice raise her children in the country whatever her income. Thinks it possible for them to be "truly polite, . . . genteel, agreeable . . . and . . .accomplished" without losing "the innocent, engaging simplicity and industry of the peasant." Fears war, though she prays for peace, and hopes her sons will be guided to an honorable and useful course in any situation they may face. Inquires about Henry's progress in his law studies. Warns him against remaining seated too long at a time, suggesting that he often read standing. Hopes George [Ridgely] will be placed with Mr. Peter Blight, an excellent, though strict master.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], June 12, 1798.

Regrets that her son finds Lancaster an unsociable place, but hopes the circumstance may keep him closer to his studies. Suggests that mathematics, surveying, history and the constitutions of his own and European countries deserve careful study. Wants him to perfect himself as a speaker, and to try in all ways to make himself a competent public servant, "for I cannot think any person was ever born for himself only. Your country has a right to your services." She, however, opposes his abandoning his law course to enter the Army at the present time, for she still hopes active service will not be required and is certain he would find it difficult to return to his studies afterwards. Is glad for him to join a militia company. Does not forbid Army enlistment, but points out its cost in future usefulness, the importance of civilian functions except in the most acute emergencies, and Henry's dislike of rigid discipline. Is pleased that he consulted her in the matter. Cannot send the sum of money he asks, but will try to secure what is absolutely necessary.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Philad[elphi]a, June 24, 1798.

All purchases but the tea are ready whenever [Capt.] Buckmaster comes. "Magaw's business" has been settled, Mr. Ross charging a $10.00 fee. The "vagabond relation" has returned to St. Thomas. Understands Mrs. Ridgely's uneasiness about Henry's [Ridgely] wish to join the Army for she is equally unhappy about Tom [Cadwalader] who begins to show a mind of his own on such matters. He is in Dunlap's Troop of Horse and will volunteer if war comes. Wishes "we were sure of one another", commenting on [Benj. F.] Bache's French correspondence and the fact that [Dr. George] "Logan has gone off" [to France]. Dreads war and, if there is no French invasion, is willing to "let merchants turn farmer and people learn to live without luxuries" rather than fight over attacks on American shipping. Lists recent purchases. Sends her love, particularly to "Willy" [Ridgely] whom she fears she has unknowingly offended. Mamma, [Mrs. Phineas Bond] offers empty wine containers for cider and sends dried fruit and a bottle of Noyau, to be taken only a tablespoonful at a time, as it is strong.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 18.7cm.x22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], June 26, 1798.

Fears her advice regarding Army enlistment has not been accepted. Comments on its similarity to the President's [John Adams] advice to the Dartmouth students. Points out that no honorable man could wish a commission before he is capable of meeting the obligations entailed, and that young men should complete their general education while studying Army theory and practice. If war comes, she wishes her sons to enlist. Otherwise thinks Henry should prepare to realize his excellent prospects as a lawyer. Has not mailed shirts because the postage exceeds their value.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 22cm.

[HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna.], from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], June 26, 1798.

Gives her reasons for opposing her son's immediate enlistment. Recommends drill, and study of military theory in case invasion comes, when he can honestly seek a commission. Otherwise wishes him to prepare to fill Brother Nicholas Ridgely's place as an attorney, since the latter is tiring of practice and is financially able to abandon it, but is waiting for Henry to succeed him.

A. Df. [incomplete] 3 pp. 16cm. x 19cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], July 3, 1798.

Is exasperated with N[icholas] R[idgely] whose negligence has made it difficult to get Henry's shirts delivered. Urges the strictest economy, as debt collections are almost impossible. Advises mixing wine or spirits with all water he drinks while heated from his long walk to and from the office. Refers to [Jacob] Jones' family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.3cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from J[ANET] F. [MRS. JACOB] JONES, [Brooklyn, N. Y.], July [12-] 17, [1798].

Both she and her son William [Jones] have been ill since leaving home. Found her family well. Hopes the Ridgely girls can "come on with Mr. [Jacob] Jones." Begs to be notified if her husband is ill, since "no one can nurse him like me." Mentions her sisters Mrs. [Ann] Sands and Rachel [Campbell]. On July 17 adds that she and William have recovered and that Rachel has left. Appreciates Mrs. Collin's kindness. Hopes Mrs. Ridgely will remind her husband to write.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.7cm. x 23cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., July 16, 1798.

Acknowledges $30.00 and asks for additional funds to pay his board, since he had to purchase his uniform from what he had. Assures his mother he realizes money is scarce, knows its value, and is neither prodigal nor niggardly, but "Lancaster is not one of the cheapest places to live in." He is in Captain Mosher's company, which actually received the Address from the ladies which "Porcupine's *Gazette*" reported as given [Capt.] Barton's company.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Philadelphia, July 18, [c. 1798].

Is glad the things were satisfactory, "particularly Nancy's bonnet." Explains her practice in regard to bills and receipts for articles purchased for Mrs. Ridgely. Has not yet received the bank dividend of $16.00 per share, since "going out is become painful." Encloses the milliner's bill for trimming a bonnet.

A. N. S. 1+1 pp. 22.5cm. x 18.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], July 21, 1798.

Takes Henry severely to task for extravagance, itemizing the sums sent him and his legitimate expenses. Though "it would break my heart to find this step necessary" will ask his brother Nicholas to accept him in his office unless he finds it possible to live at Lancaster within his means. Emphasizes that she wants him to avoid "meanness" as well as extravagance. Is delighted that [ex-President] Washington has accepted appointment as Commander of the Army. Would give much to have Henry trained under such a man's supervision. Suggests precautions to be taken in case of an outbreak of dysentery.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.3cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., July 27, 1798.

Acknowledges $60.00. Defends his expenses, referring to [an originally] enclosed itemized account. Explains a loan of $20.00, not yet fully collected, to a fellow boarder whose father "wishes him to live genteelly without supplying him with a sufficiency of money for that purpose." Will himself endeavor to be even more frugal than in the past. The infantry and cavalry companies of the town attend church in a body next Sunday to hear a special sermon.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia, c. Aug. 1798].

Sends Toland's account. Pepper's *Works* are 11 shillings 3 pence. Asks that a carefully balanced statement of their account be sent to her, sealed, "for fear of accident. . . . The avarice of our merchants has again bro[ugh]t the Yellow Fever here and it puts on the most alarming appearance." She is about to leave town. Franks Hamilton has the fever and his mother, who has been ill for some weeks, will be deserted, "such is the horror of the fever." Was amazed to see Harry [Ridgely] in Philadelphia, for the epidemic was known in Lancaster. Disapproves his going to Dover in August. Sent word to prevent George [Ridgely] from coming to town. Has been unable to get Mary's [Ridgely] shoes and cannot now send money of hers. Supposes "all communication between us will be cut off." Capt. Mitchel, a son of Cox the shopkeeper, and a porter in the Cadwalader's neighborhood have died. A postscript reports Franks Hamilton is recovering from a light case of fever.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Aug. 3, 1798.

Sends additional funds, insisting on the strictest economy, since she can scarely raise enough "for the very necessities of life." Cannot understand how he could have spent $1.00 weekly in addition to small items like "shaving box, soap and galluses." Mr. Kerr's bill for board must be paid at once. Warns against lending to improvident acquaintances.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., [Dover], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Aug. 14, 1798.

Wishes a day set for final settlement with [Mr.] Barratt, whose debt to the late Dr. [Charles] Ridgely's estate she discusses. Also asks advice concerning collections from Messrs. Sykes, Battell, McCall, James David, and Truitt and Pennell. Asks Nicholas to make one further attempt to presuade his brother Abraham [Ridgely] to pay the rent due "for Harry Ridgely's House."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.3cm. x 23cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from J[ANET] F. [MRS. JACOB] JONES, Brooklyn, [N. Y.], Sept. 5, [17]98.

Has decided to return with her husband instead of remaining as long as originally planned. Sails on Saturday for Milford, [Del.], and will be home Tuesday or Wednesday. Her baby is well but she is ill again. Few stricken with the fever ever recover. Parson Moore is ill and Dr. Berry is dead. Found New York so deserted she was unable to purchase suitable presents for those in Dover.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, Kent Co., from AND[RE]W HAMILTON, "[The Woodl]ands", [near Philadelphia], Sept. 6, 1798.

Acknowledges a letter for his mother, who is ill, and thanks Mrs. Ridgely for all her civility during "such a distressing time." Alludes to deaths of two members of his family. The "fever increases so rapidly and with such violence that all the Physicians are alarmed and seem almost inclined to let the Disaster take its course." His mother is now out of town.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.6cm. x 22.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from ANN [MRS. THOS. WM.] MOORE, Brooklyn, [N. Y.], Sept. 10, 1798.

Hopes her husband [Mrs. Ridgely's brother] may be successful in obtaining a government position.

Was pleased with Mr. [Jacob] J[ones], who appears to be a kind and affectionate husband and father. Understands his income is about £500 per year, enough for comfort if well managed. Hopes he will abandon his "wild" scheme of entering the Navy. Regrets that the yellow fever has reached Delaware, but understands few cities have escaped it. Mentions the Ridgely girls and [her own daughter] Mrs. [Ann] Sands.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from A[NN, MRS. THOS. WM.] MOORE, Long Island, [N. Y.], Sept. 24, [17]98.

Is glad [her daughter] Jane [Jones] decided to leave before October, for just after her departure Mrs. [Ann] Sand's waiter contracted a fatal case of yellow fever. Had planned to have [William Jones] weaned and inoculated had they stayed. The fever has been virulent in New York. Fears her own health will never permit her to visit Dover. Daily expects word that her husband has received his appointment, but hears by the last packet only that he is well. Thinks Mr. [Jacob] Jones is a good husband. Inquires about his financial circumstances, of which her daughter would say little.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16.4cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Nov. 6, 1798.

Acknowledges receipt of a letter and commodities received by Mr. Wootten. Expresses extreme disappointment at Mr. [Peter] Blight's discourtesy in failing to inform her son, George Ridgely, of his change of plans. Says, " 'tis now more than thirteen years that my five children have had only the protection of a weak mother to depend on." Asks further information about sending her daughter, Nancy [Ridgely], to Philadelphia to live with Mrs. Rowan and her three daughters in Harmony Court.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.5cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Phila[delphia], Nov. 18, 1798.

Is worried about the Ridgely family, who were ill when she last heard, October 3d. Wishes they would leave Dover's unhealthy climate and move near Philadelphia. Believes recent epidemics there were imported and could be avoided by building "a Lazarus" below the city for "cargoes from sickly countries during the warm weather." Considers Mrs. Hamilton's death merciful, for she could not have borne the loss of her children, Franks especially. The surviving Hamiltons will live near her in Shoemaker's house. Refers to "young Robert Morris" and tells of Robert Morris [imprisoned financier], his wife, son William [Morris], who died of the fever, and Marie [Morris?]. Regrets to report "some ladies here wear wigs . . . real wigs all over the head." Mrs. Bingham and her daughters are among them. Urges "Willy" [Ridgely] to accompany her sister Mary on her visit. Fears she has unintentionally offended her. Complains that mail was not forwarded to Germantown during the epidemic, as she asked [Postmaster] Patton to do. Refers to the heavy mortality in the jail.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Nov. 29, [1798].

Is delighted to learn of Mrs. Ridgely's recovery. Recommends Mrs. Rowan's, in Harmony Court, for Nancy [Ridgely]. Mrs. Rowan and her daughters teach "fine work" and reading; instruction in dancing and school subjects is easily accessible. Rate, £60 per year without washing. Mrs. Capron's Boarding School is popular, but she herself disapproves the "mixture so common in Boarding Schools." Mrs. Capron now occupies Mrs. Cadwalader's house at 3rd and Vine Streets. Her husband is a music master. Beer, coffee, sugar and tea are being sent down; calico and dimity will follow. Mentions Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett and the [Smith] family. Peggy Hamilton thinks her mother died of grief. Alludes to [the late] Mrs. Lisle and Franks [Hamilton], to Mr. Lisle and his children, "Mamma" [Mrs. Phineas Bond] and Betsy [Travis], the Donald family, and Dr. [John] Laws. Gossips about Mrs. Roberts who "had bought her child of Roberts for £250 per annum" and whose political views she deplores.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21cm. x 33.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Dec. 12, [1798].

Repeats Mrs. Rowan's terms. Bedding and washing must be supplied. Quotes rates of 4 shillings 6 pence per day for laundry, or £6 and £5 per year per person in some large families. Mary [Ridgely] knows enough of styles for her sister Ann to "come up very smart." Last year's clothing is being worn; new garments are plain in back. Suggests a spencer [jacket] be made at home to avoid waiting and expense. Asks when Ann will come and if she is to study with Jesse Waterman or attend Hutchins school. Harmony Court is conveniently located, between Walnut, Chestnut, 3rd and 4th Streets. Encloses accounts for recent purchases.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22.4cm.

MR. [JOHN] TRAVIS, [Philadelphia], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 16, 1798.

Thanks Mr. Travis for his previous efforts in George's [Ridgely] behalf and inquires about the possibility of apprenticing him to someone in the East Indian trade. Censures Mr. [Peter] Blight for failure to fulfill his agreement to take the lad after keeping him "under engagement" since May and so preventing his placement elsewhere. Knows little of her son's clerical ability but vouches for his "integrity, industry, and good temper."

Cy. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 20.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Phila[delphia], Dec. 22, [1798].

Discusses various details of Ann's [Ridgely] living arrangements and education. Mrs. Rowan cannot board "Willy" [Ridgely] but will permit her to share her sister's bed during her stay. Speaks of Mrs. Gore, who has an apartment at Mrs. Rowan's. Refers to Ann as "a woman in size." Has herself narrowly missed an attack of pleurisy.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN TRAVIS, Philad[elphi]a, Dec. 31, 1798.

Has sought a place for her son George [Ridgely] with every merchant in the city "of any respectability", but all have "more young men than can be properly employed." Mr. Blight regrets the loss of time he has caused George and may take him in the spring. Advises her, however, not to rely upon it.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Phila[delphia], Jan. 3, 1799.

Is sorry Nancy [Ridgely] has been detained. Fears the roads will soon be even worse. The streets of Philadelphia have been dangerous all winter. Promises Nancy every attention, and hopes "Willy" [Ridgely] accompanies her. Going to the bank is so disagreeable she plans to give her son power of attorney to collect dividends for her. Asks Mrs. Ridgely to choose another representative. Charles Smith, who recently visited town, thinks "it is the expense of board that takes Henry home" [from Lancaster]. Cannot see "to write by the fireside" and it is too cold to do so comfortably elsewhere. Mentions the Bond and Travis families.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 15, 1799.

To protect Mrs. Ridgely's mortgage he bid in "Pennel's share of the mill lately belonging to his Father" and is now much embarrassed by the resulting situation. Mentions Mr. Welmsly and "young Coomb."

A. N. S. 1 p. 16.7cm. x 17.7cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Wilmington, [Del.], Jan. 18, [17]99.

He and his sister, Ann [Ridgely] have arrived safely in Wilmington, after having had the stage to themselves most of the trip. She is at Mrs. [John] Vining's. Refers to Mrs. [James A.] Bayard and Mrs. John Vining's brothers.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.4cm. x 20cm.

[Cover carries a list of farm implements and stock.]

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 20, 1799.

Was disappointed at not hearing by Friday's mail of Ann's safe arrival at Aunt [Mary] Vining's. Expects letters soon from her and Harry [Ridgely], telling of the trip to Philadelphia. Mrs. Cadwalader is to handle Ann's money. Gives directions for having "a dress of Chintz or fine Callico" made at once. Warns that "fashions alter so often that to make up more things at a time than are really necessary is extravagant." Also disapproves of wastefully frequent laundering. Inquires for Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond and Peggy Hamilton. Describes a boring tea guest, Dr. [James] Ralston. Dr. S[yke]s is reported leaving Kent [County]. Brother N[icholas] Ridgely is better. Urges her daughter to write often but not to neglect attending church to insure a weekly letter home.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Jan. 20, [17]99.

Arrived in Philadelphia safely, spent the evening at Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader's and then went to Mrs. Rowan's where she will board. Has a "charming little room" to herself adjoining Mrs. Gore's. Likes the household. Is going to Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond's with Mrs. Cadwalader. Thinks Sally [Goldsborough] and Fanny [Cadwalader] both pretty. [David] Erskine and "young McDonald" called; thinks the latter "the greatest fool I ever saw." Tom Meridith and William Blodgett are "much altered, Tom for the better and William for the worse." Harry [Ridgely] dines at the tavern with "young Strawbridge" who accompanied them from Wilmington. Mrs. [John] Vining's family are well; "both Miss Wynkoops and Miss George were there." Mrs. [J. A.] Bayard is expected up soon.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 21, 1799.

Has been able to learn nothing concerning the "Graham (or Grimes)" family who are prospective tenants of a Ridgely property; consequently he can make no recommendation. Offers certain suggestions in case they are accepted.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 14cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Jan. 24, 1799.

Dined on Sunday at Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond's and saw there the Cadwaladers, Louis Morris, . . . Naylor, Richard Smith, [David] Erskine, and Mrs. [John] Travis. Called at Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett's. Her five children, Thomas Smith, George Washington, Julia Rush, Ellen and John Adams Blodgett are among "the finest and prettiest" she ever saw. Stopped at Hamilton's, and saw the girls, James H[amilton] and Mary Lyle. Considers Mrs. Rowan's manners "disagreeable", particularly to her other boarders, Mary and Janet Parsons of Santa Cruz. Describes the Parsons girls and Mrs. Rowan's daughters, Nancy (Mrs. Weed), Isabella, Martha and Jane Rowan. Met Eliza Smith at dancing school. Jesse Waterman, a tutor, called today. Describes her own room, which has two windows, two chairs, a bed, a card table and a looking glass. It is too cold for writing so she is in the school room "where there is nothing but smoke and noise." Sends her sister some fashionable ribbon having for a design the likeness of President Adams between two hearts. Harry [Ridgely] has returned from Lancaster. Mentions John Laurens, and her own family. Is somewhat homesick.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 24, 1799.

Appreciates the thoughtfulness of Ann's fellow-lodger Mrs. Gore, and is glad her living arrangements are pleasant. Hopes her daughter will never be so discourteous as Mrs. Cadwalader, who allowed Ann and [Henry] "to leave her house accompanied only by her servant." Comments sarcastically about this. Expects Ann to go out seldom, except to dancing school and church, for "fine work, reading, writing, Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, drawing, painting and dancing" should leave her little leisure. Refers to Mr. [Jesse] Waterman, the quality of quills needed for pens, a comb [her sister] "Willy" wishes sent, Mrs. [John] Vining's brothers James and Henry [Seton], Seton V[ining], and Mr. and Mrs. [Jacob] Jones and their son William [Jones].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], Jan. 25, 1799.

Thinks Nancy [Ridgely] is well situated and happy at Mrs. Rowan's. Has entertained her several times, obtained her comb and brush, and will soon get her other things. Mrs. Ridgely's purchases are ready to go down by the shallop.

Writes of her lottery tickets, Toland's bill and the method of collecting the bank dividend. Has such confidence in the bank, she wishes all her funds were invested in it. Reports that linen is very expensive. Rejoices that plans [for George Ridgely] have been changed, because "young Lads in Counting Houses" have so often been among the first victims of yellow fever, "from being about the Wharves and amongst the ships. Dr. Griffith spoke of it to me last summer as if they were sacrificed." Her conscience will not let her expose others to dangers she will not face herself. Mentions Dr. [Thomas] Parke, Mr. [Nicholas] Ridgely, Mr. Lisle and the Hamiltons, Mary [Ridgely] and Fanny [Cadwalader]. Four toothbrushes cost $.75. Would like another statement of their account.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.4cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], Jan. 29, 1799.

Regrets that her daughter seems less satisfied than she had hoped. Is glad all classes except dancing are held at Mrs. Rowan's. Expects her to be an attentive student and a considerate boarder. Henry [Ridgely] arrived home safely, though his stage, with fourteen passengers, overturned near Wilmington. Had hoped [Samuel] White would call to take letters and some small gifts to Philadelphia. Mrs. Caldwell, "late Sidney Gordon", recently died. Refers to Mrs. Nixon, Miss Sally Loockerman, Mr. and Mrs. [Jacob] Jones, Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Rowan, Mrs. Cadwalader, "the Miss Hamiltons" and her own sisters Mary and Williamina [Ridgely].

A. L. [S. inferred] 3 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.4cm.

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 3, [17]99.

Spent Sunday with the Hamiltons. Saw [Mr.] Lyle and his children. Thinks Andrew Hamilton and Joseph McDaniel much alike. Mentions Mr. Hughes' funeral, "the President's son", [Samuel] White, the Cadwaladers, [Mr.] Prime, Mrs. Pauling's lodging house in Callow Hill St., and the expected marriage of Sam Murgatroyd and Susan Governure. Mrs. [Benj. F.] Bache remarked that [the Blodgett baby] should have been called Washington Lottery Blodgett "apropos the managers have drawn the highest prise" [sic]. Likes the Rowans much better. Will send some songs she likes. The theatre season starts the next day. Her mother's letter arrived by penny post.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 9, 1799.

Is now "perfectly satisfied." The Hamiltons invited her to spend Saturdays with them. Has been to dinner at Mrs. Cadwalader's and Aunt [Phineas] Bond's. "You know how I used to rave against family parties. I still hate them but I prefer them to staying at home alone." Tells of other social engagements, and refers to Miss Bassett, Mrs. [Jas. A.] Bayard, Eliza Smith, [Samuel] White, Sally Goldsborough, Mr. Bond, Becky [Bond], Becky Hamilton, Mrs. Cockran (née Nelly Barkley), William Jones and [infant] Gilbert. . . . She has a pink and white chintz and "a handsome white japan'd muslin", neither made yet because Betsy Carson is busy. Had her hair cut by La Cave so it curls at the neck and in front with the long hair arranged to "look like a wig." Protests receiving letters only from her mother though the other members of the family are all at home. People comment on her resemblance to her mother. "Take care of Louis and Sophia" [her cats].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, #29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 10, 1799.

Reminds Ann that her studies and the formation of "habits of industry" should fill her time. "Willy" [Ridgely] hopes the six "under chemises" she has finished for her can soon be delivered. She may attend the theatre occasionally if Mrs. Cadwalader and Mrs. Rowan approve. Mrs. [Sidney] Caldwell left an infant son. Speaks of [Jacob] Jones' naval appointment, of his wife's plans, of the difficulty of getting her own watch and "Willy's" combs from the city, and of [Samuel] White's army commission. Peggy Laws plans to marry . . . Barker, not . . . Chatham. Inquires the price of 24 pound boxes of wax candles advertised by "Willings and Travises."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 13, 1799.

Thinks she has a valid case against William Barns for breach of contract, provided the agreement was in writing or can be proved by witnesses. Explains the law in regard to an individual's books as evidence. "I just got a bunch of clever fresh Perch for you; please to send for them."

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 16.6cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 14, 1799.

Tells of recent callers, a pleasant evening with the [Jacob] Jones family, Ann's birthday [Feb. 12] and Mrs. [James A.] Bayard's presence in Philadelphia with her children. Met Mr. and Mrs. Broom under somewhat awkward circumstances. He is "very chatty and sensible— his wife is chatty." Williamina Ridgely orders India Buck Muslin a yard and a half wide and crepe muslin a yard wide at about a dollar a yard. Wants a copy of Goldsmith's *The Traveller* if it is obtainable. Complains of the difficulty of communication with Philadelphia. Discounts a rumor about yellow fever in the city but urges Nancy [Ridgely] to take all necessary precautions. Refers to a valued watch once her father's.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philad[elph]ia, Feb. 17, 1799.

Studies under Jesse Waterman every evening, is learning to tambour, and goes to dancing school three times weekly. Doubts she has time for drawing and painting but will undertake them if directed to do so. Promises to make good use of her time. Plans to attend a play with Becky Bond. Met Judge Smith and his wife who were very kind "and begged I would be very sociable with the girls." Also had an invitation from "the Miss Wynkoops." Attended a "Practising Ball" at Quesnet's dancing school, "where I danced two country dances." Has visited the Hamiltons. Molly [Hamilton] keeps [Mr.] Lyle's house and children. [Samuel] White, in full uniform, "really [looks] like Captain Strut." Pities Jane [Jones], whose husband has enlisted in the Navy. Miss Ashley and [Mr.] Walker were married, first by the Bishop, then by "a Roman priest."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.6cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from MRS. A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Feb. 20, 1799.

Reproves Ann for neglect of her studies and lays out a program she considers desirable. Thinks "Tambour work" merits little attention, as it is out of fashion, and too confining. Encourages her to develop her bent for drawing, but permits her to use her own discretion about taking art lessons. Insists on improvement in the fundamental subjects and directs that this letter be shown to Mrs. Cadwalader. Refers to the Misses Wynkoop and their brother Dyne, the Misses Hamilton, and Judge Smith and his family. Reports the marriage of Mr. Barker and Miss Laws [Feb. 19th].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 24, 1799.

Could get no book muslin at less than 17 shillings 6 pence, nor "crape muslin" at less than $1.50 per yard. Found no combs under $1.00 but Mrs. Cadwalader thinks she can get them at $.50. Has not yet found Goldsmith's *Traveler.* Louis Morris sends respects to Mary [Ridgely]. Becky Bond and Fanny Cadwalader attended "the Ball in honor of Gen. Washington at the Circus Friday. The roof was off and everybody looked blue with the cold." Her dresses are made very long waisted. Chintz was 4 shillings 8 pence per yard. Doctors deny the report of [yellow] fever in town. Mentions Mrs. [James A.] Bayard, the Misses Wynkoop, Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond, and Maria West's infant daughter, Mary. Wax candles are 4 shillings 6 pence per box.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.8cm. x 22.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia, c. Feb. 24, 1799].

Will send the watch by Mr. [Wm. H.] Wells in March, since Mr. [Samuel] White's return is uncertain. Tells of Nancy's [Ridgely] muslin and chintz dresses. Mrs. Rowan praises her neatness, but wishes someone to make her pay closer attention to geography, grammar and arithmetic, especially the multiplication table. Wishes the suggestion to come from her mother, for she would resent interference from Mrs. Cadwalader. Also thinks she should dance at home with the girls in the evening, and call occasionally upon Mrs. Gore. Recently visited her dancing class. Mrs. Rowan's daughters dress well, and Nancy should follow their advice. They are very helpful to her. The Hamiltons are also kind. Candles, made by a man in Wilmington, are 4 shillings 6 pence per pound and about 2 shillings 6 pence per box. Encloses a list of purchases made for Nancy: 7 yards chintz, pocket book, tambour needle, thimble, muslin for practice, 6 yards spotted muslin, body linings, white silk gloves, red morocco shoes.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 3, 1799.

Unseasonable cold is keeping Dover residents from visiting Philadelphia, making it difficult to get purchases delivered. Refers to Ann's description of "the celebration of the birth of our incomparable Washington" and [with implied disapproval] to "his successor." Speaks of a pleasant evening with the Jones family, the Canal Lottery, Mr. Barker's young second wife and a rumor of Miss . . . Killen's marriage to Dr. Dale. Minty Meeks is insane. Hopes Mr. [Richard] Bassett will send her to the Philadelphia Hospital instead of to the Poor House. Fears the late snow will prevent her own usual planting of peas on March 9th or 10th. Mentions [Wm. Hill] Wells, [Samuel] White, and various callers.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Mar. 3, [1799].

Was surprised to be charged $6.00 for the repairs of Mrs. Ridgely's watch. Sends it with samples of Nancy's [Ridgely] dresses. Delayed securing a drawing master for her because of "the extreme cold" and because Mrs. Rowan believed her lessons, dancing and [needle] work would fill her time "such very short days." The family is grieved over the death of Frank . . . who had "lived so long with us." Purchased boots for Nancy since "all young People have them and they are a great scarcity." Silk gloves are cheaper than leather, and are fashionable. Nancy has everything except "Gold wires for her Ears." Refers to Mary [Ridgely], Betsy [Travis], Tom and Fanny [Cadwalader], Mrs. Gore, the Hamiltons, Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett and Sally [Goldsborough]. Says she has material "for sleeves when [the dress] wants new ones."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 31.5cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 6, 1799.

Gives the price of combs, muslin, and the cleaning of a watch. Wishes Ann [Ridgely] to keep accurate accounts. Likes the sample of spotted muslin for her new dress. Reminds her to buy enough material to mend the garment and make new sleeves, if necessary. Comments that both she and Mary [Ridgely] need to know how to darn well. Sister "Willy's" muslin must be sent at once to replace some mistakenly delivered at the Ridgely home and cut before the error was discovered. Charles Hillyard, Jr., died yesterday. Refers disparagingly to Mr. and Mrs. [John] Vining. Has had difficulty with the servants. Mentions Fanny Cadwalader.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.2cm.

[WM. HILL WELLS, Dagsborough, Del.], from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, c. Mar. 8, 1799].

Is deeply embarrassed that the contents of a package not intended for her family was used immediately following its arrival. Explains that her daughter, Williamina, had expected to receive from her sister, Ann, the exact kind and quantity of muslin the package contained.

A. Df. U. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

[On same sheet with letter to Nicholas Ridgely from Mr. Wells, Mar. 7, 1799.]

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Mar. 9, 1799.

Hopes "poor Minty Meeks" will not be sent to the Poor House. Has recently visited the Cadwalader, Travis and Hamilton families. Attended "a Practicing Ball at Quesnets'." The President [John Adams] attended "the Ball at the Circus" and stayed "the whole evening (or rather night, for the Ladies did not go home till 1 or 2 o'clock. Some gentlemen staid till 6 in the morning.)" Mentions the former Sally McKean, Sophia McKean, the Misses Wynkoop, Mrs. Smith and daughters, Maria Smith and her own family. Sent sister "Willy's" muslin by Mr. [W. H.] Wells, with a letter.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from WM. HILL WELLS, Dagsborough, [Del.], Mar. 11, 1799.

Apologizes for the inconvenience caused by his "awkward misunderstanding" in regard to a small package brought from Philadelphia. Refers to his wife, Mrs. Cadwalader, and members of the Ridgely family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS ANN RIDGE]LY, Philadelphia, Mar. 16, [17]99.

Regrets contributing to the "mistake about the muslin" Mr. Wells took. Tells of the dinner at Mrs. [John] Travis' and tea at Judge Smith's. Saw the French prisoners from Lancaster. James and Andrew Hamilton, to their sisters' distress, are going "with the Army against the Insurgents." Had "a long confab about Dover" with Betsy Macomb. Read of the marriage of Martha Black to Benjamin Noxon of Noxon Town, presumably "our cousin Ben Noxon." Thinks John Ward Fenno only moderately handsome and "Sam Murgatroyd's face handsome but his person shocking." Speaks of Mrs. Collin's [infant] daughter, Patty Macmullan, and Emily Rush's wedding.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY] and [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 16, 1799.

Her mother inquires about Ann's progress with her studies and reminds her to attend Good Friday services.

"Willy" [Ridgely] asks again for her combs. Wonders if Ann's schoolmates from St. Croix chance to know friends of hers from that island. Remarks that George [Ridgely] is not "so fond of his pen as the rest of the family." Expects the congregation will be small, because of the long interruption of services, when Mr. Reese preaches in [Christ] Church, [Dover].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Mar. 23, [1799].

Fears her son Tom is "going out against our poor foolish Neighbors in Northampton [County]." Foresees no resistance but worries about the exposure and loss of time from study such a campaign would involve. Explains her bookkeeping in respect to bank dividends. Thinks any man can regulate the newly repaired watch and is sure the work was competently done. Is unwilling to advise about George, [Ridgely] since he is likely to resent any woman's suggestions, "an old one's especially." Has set her heart on a visit from Mary [Ridgely]. Mrs. [Williamina] Pawling, her children and Mrs. Moore are living in Philadelphia on Callow Hill St.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

[MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from MARY N. [MRS. JOHN] DICKINSON, Wilmington, Del., Mar. 24, 1799.

Inquires for the Ridgely family after the "long and very trying winter." Hopes for a visit during the summer. Her recent poor health has interfered with her correspondence, but she remains anxious to hear from her friends. Mentions [her daughters] Sallie and Maria [Dickinson].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

DR. A[BRAHAM] RIDGELY, [Dover], from MRS. ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 26, 1799.

Informs him that shingles for repairing the roof of his house may be obtained from Mr. Broom and reminds him that the rent is in arrears.

A. Cy. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 13cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 31, 1799.

Hopes Ann's improvement in letter-writing indicates equal progress in other subjects. Is worried over the financial situation of [Jacob] Jones' family when he leaves for duty as a midshipman. Mr. [Walter C.] Gardener recently had the largest congregation in seven years at [Christ] Church; hopes it will "again flourish" since the younger parishioners are pleased with the [new] parson. Mentions Mr. [John C.] Brush, young Dr. Dana from New England, Mrs. Nixon, Mrs. Miller and Betsy Johnson [a seamstress]. Ben Crooks and Arch[ibald] McCall are reported seeking appointment as midshipmen.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Mar. 31, 1799.

Is pleased at the prospect of "a good preacher" for Dover after so long an interval. Supposes the fact that Mr. [Walter C.] Gardener is "an own Brother to The Gallant Captain Gardener" is sufficient recommendation. Mrs. Cockran recently died, leaving an infant daughter. Asks for tube-rose roots as a gift for Mrs. Gore, of whom she is very fond. Finds herself the pet of the household. Miss Parsons knows none of sister "Willy's" schoolmates. Often sees Betsy Macomb. Hopes some of the neighbors will soon be up, for she needs her linen and also her "umbrella, as the sun is so warm in the Spring." Wants misspellings called to her attention. "If the girls want powder it can be got for eleven pence a pound by the dozen."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.3cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], April 3, 1799.

Is sending a package by French Battell, containing six shifts, some tube-rose roots and a pincushion; if he goes by shallop she will add a gift of tongue and hams for Mrs. Rowan. Enjoyed a visit from [John] Dickinson, who brought Ann a copy of *Catechism of Nature,* his gift, and a workbasket from his daughter Maria Dickinson. "He is just the same as he has been ever since you knew him, though very, very different indeed from what I first remember him to have been." Dr. [Jas.] Fisher's wife (née Nancy McClement) died this morning, leaving an infant daughter. Is concerned about "the acct. in Fenno's paper" about yellow fever. Reproves Ann for misspelling when a dictionary is available. Mary [Ridgely] is digging flower roots for Mrs. Cadwalader. "Willy" [Ridgely] asks for a gill of "good fresh Carroway seed; the Almshouse will be a likely place to get it."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, April 13, 1799.

Has obtained the articles her mother and Williamina sent for. The powder was twelve shillings. Acknowledges hams and tongues sent for Mrs. Rowan, and linen, tube rose roots and the pincushion for herself. Gives prices of shoes, thread and carroway seed. Refers to Antwerp Raspberry and moss rose plants. Expects to return to dancing school after a month's absence due to frosted heels. Her drawing teacher, Mr. Smith, considered the best in the city, compliments her highly. Tells in detail of Maria Bingham's runaway marriage to Count Tilly, "an old French man, or at least forty years of age." Sends a pocketbook she has worked, and an orange. Appreciates presents from Mr. [John] Dickinson and Maria [Dickinson] but doubts she will ever read the one from Mr. Dickinson, "as . . . I was never fond of Catechisms of any sort." Suggests the bit of embroidered muslin sent previously may do for a baby's cap. Asks the name of [Abraham Ridgely's] infant daughter. Sent Cyrus [slave child] the promised primer. Inquires about "Rachel's child Abram."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.3cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], April 14, 1799.

Chides Ann for failing to pay Mrs. Rowan when asked, though the quarter had not expired. Wishes all the teachers to be paid punctually on the final day of "the term they engaged for." Dr. [Abraham] R[idgely]'s daughter is "Margaretta Augusta Anderson" [Ridgely], to the annoyance of Brother Nick [Ridgely] who wanted her called Williamina. Suggests Ann buy "a plain thick (Cambrick) muslin . . . or a handsome fine Chintz." Thinks a white figure on a blue background pretty. Supposes Tom's [Cadwalader] accident before he left has made his mother very apprehensive about his [military] service.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, April 20, [17]99.

Discusses the contents of a box sent by Mr. Battell which she hopes has now arrived. Her quarter at Mrs. Rowan's is up and her bill has been paid. George McCall dropped dead on Wednesday. His wife, dying of consumption, refused to be bled while he was away, and lost her reason on learning the truth. His father is also critically ill of "gout in his head." Betsy Cadwalader died Saturday. Failed to hear Princeton Smith at a Presbyterian meeting. Tom Cadwalader is not back. A company of militia returned recently with twenty prisoners.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], April 21, 1799.

Obtained for Mrs. Ridgely a quarter cask of Lisbon wine, 32-33 gallons, though Mr. [Battell] did not give due notice of the shallop's sailing. Mr. Rundle sent an Antwerp raspberry plant. Betsy Cad[walader] died after a long and distressing illness, and George McCall very suddenly. The latter's wife and father are critically ill. Expects Tom [Cadwalader] home shortly. Lists Nancy's [Ridgely] recent purchases. She will go to dancing classes daily. Asks how many drawing lessons she is to have.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.5cm. x 20.3cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], April 21, 1799.

The new parson, Mr. [Walter C.] Gardener, has called with his wife and small daughters Eliza and Mary. The church is still too damp for her to attend. Enjoys the *Vicar of Wakefield*. Orders "a root or two of the Antwerp Raspberry." Describes her garden. Cold weather retarded the asparagus crop. Extends an invitation to Ann's friends to visit her in Dover. Resents the town's reputation for an unhealthy climate, given it "by some imprudent people." Needs some peppermint comfits as a remedy for indigestion.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16cm. x 19cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, Kent Co., from [MRS.] MARY RUSMEYER, Litiz, [Penna.], April 23, 1799.

Acknowledges several letters. Writes of religion. Takes great pleasure in a two-and-a-half year old grandson who "has the Verses and Melodys Surprisingly for his Age." Mentions "our Cousin [Charles] Smith."

A. L. S. 1 p. 17.3cm. x 20.3cm.

DR. A[BRAHAM] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], April 23, 1799.

Reprimands him for disregarding her communications and not paying any rent for the past five years. Recalls that her association with all other members of the family has been harmonious and sets a time before taking steps to obtain the rent.

A. Cy. U. 2 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, April 27, 1799.

Is "glad you have at length got a good Parson in Dover." Tells of attending church several times recently. Refers to the three recent deaths in the McCall family. Saw the funeral of "poor Peggy Clymer that was" [Mrs. Geo. McCall]. Mrs. [John] Travis' baby is born. The troops have all returned. Hopes she will not be sent for before July. Peggy O'Brian [apparently a former Ridgely servant] came to see her. Suggests a gift. She can obtain some good limes if her mother wants them, and would like some asparagus for Mrs. Weed, a daughter of Mrs. Rowan. Will send a sample of her drawing. Mentions James, Becky, Peggy and Molly Hamilton, [Mr.] Lyle, Tom Cadwalader, Countess Tilly and her husband, Mr. Battell, the Rowan family, [Rev. Samuel] Magaw, William and Richard Smith, Mrs. Rundle, the Chev[elie]r de Frerere, Brother A[braham]'s infant and her own family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], April 28, 1799.

Is delighted with the "shading" and general workmanship of a pocketbook [embroidered] by Ann. Inquires about her dancing and drawing lessons. Thinks drawing is a "charming branch of female education." Hopes she can paint a picture of the garden when she returns about the middle of next month. Orders a pair of slippers of florentine or satinet with a little leather added at the back to make them slightly longer than pairs previously bought. "They must have sharp toes, though not in the extreme." Refers to the tragedy in the McCall family, and, with disapproval, to the "affair of the run-away Countess." Tells of the birth of [kittens] to Ann's pet, "Sophia."

A. L.[S. inferred] 3 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], May 5, 1799.

Mrs. [James] Bayard recently returned from Philadelphia. Cold rain and frost may have ruined the fruit crop. "The month of May now is almost as chilling as that of Feb[ruar]y used to be some few years back." Speaks of the recent deaths of G[eorge] McCall, his wife and father. Asks how many children the young couple left, and expresses sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. Clymer. Mrs. Warner Mifflin has left for Barbadoes, and may visit Europe before returning. Fears she may meet with more adventures than she seeks. Has not yet dared "venture into a cold place and so damp a one as our [Christ] Church is 'till the sun shines and warms the walls a little more than it has this Spring." Inquires about the Hamiltons, Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett, and Sally Goldsborough.

A. L. [S. inferred] 3 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, May 5, 1799.

Saw Mat. Lowber and [Mr.] Huston. Has done the errands she was asked to do. Spent a pleasant day with the Cadwaladers. Thinks her mother will be pleased with her drawing. Refers to the recent deaths of "Peggy Clymer [Mrs. Geo. McCall] and her father-in-law." Mrs. Travis wishes to call her daughter Williamina but Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond prefers Elizabeth. Palmer, the shoemaker, has lost Mrs. Ridgely's last.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], May 7, 1799.

Mr. [Jacob] Jones is awaiting his naval assignment, and will soon come to Philadelphia to purchase his uniforms. Speaks of his happy marriage and of his son William [Jones]. Inquires about her tickets in the Canal and Washington lotteries. Mentions Mary Bassett's "fashionable straw hat . . . [and] Nancy Bayard's beaver" which she preferred. Hears Count Tilly has offered $1000 reward for his Countess. Wonders if she has been found.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.4cm.

N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, ESQ., [Dover], from MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, May 8, 1799.

Is in distress for "money sufficient to enable me to keep House" unless long overdue debts can be collected. Dislikes constant dunning, "but it is much worse . . . to be subject to being dun'd . . . for trifles." Wishes steps taken at once to collect from Mr. Molleston, J. Pleasanton, Mr. Barratt and J. David. Was "really amaz'd" at Brother Abra[ha]m's attitude toward the rent, which she wishes to discuss with Nicholas.

A. Cy. U. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, May 10, 1799.

Regrets the miscarriage of a recent letter, in which she spoke of Peggy O'Brien. Was pleased to see Mr. [Jacob] Jones, but was amazed at her brother George's [Ridgely] decision to join the Navy. "Count Tilly has not yet found his Countess," whose whereabouts is "a profound secret." Mrs. [George] McCall left two sons. Enjoyed the play she attended with Mr. and Mrs. Liston, Miss [Rebecca] Bond, Mr. Rich, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Thornton, Mr. [David] Erskine, George MacDonald and Lord Henry Stuart. Mrs. [John] Travis' infant has been named Betsy. Has seen Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett but twice. "Frees," a leader "of the insurrection" is to be hung in four weeks. Is anxious to get home. Inquires how long Mary [Ridgely] will stay in the City. [Mr.] Prime and the Rundles sail for England soon. Tells of her art lessons. "It is said that young [John Quincy] Adams admires Sally Gibson." Pities Jane [Mrs. Jacob Jones].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], May 12, 1799.

Comments upon Henry's friends Clark Frazier, J[ames] Rodgers and Jack Polk. Refers to the activities of [Jacob] Jones, Nicholas Ridgely's former student Mr. Robinson, [Samuel] White and his young nephew Dan[ie]l Polk, all serving in the Army or Navy. Young Polk "looks very pretty in his uniform . . . I hear [Samuel] White looks the worse for it." Is distressed by the prospect of war and the daily sound of "drum and fife in Dover", but is willing for her sons to "fight for maintenance of their country." George [Ridgely] wants to join the Navy. Henry is "Cornet in a Troop of Horse", which does not interrupt his law course. Expects Ann [Ridgely] home soon. Mentions Becky and Peggy Hamilton, Mrs. [John] Travis and Peggy O'Brien. Expresses her regret at being able to send no asparagus.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Dover], May 14, 1799.

Defends his purchase of the Pennell property and his delay in paying for it, in view of all the circumstances. Sends $80.00 and promises the balance at the earliest opportunity.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, May 18, 1799.

Is pleased ,though surprised, at her brother George's intention of joining the Navy. "I'm glad to hear that your mornings are ushered in by the Drum & Fife as nothing is so charming to me." Andrew [Hamilton] sails soon for Batavia. Mentions James, Peggy and Becky Hamilton, who want her to spend the coming winter with them. Refers to other social engagements. Met "two of the Miss Fenno's."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY] and [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], May 19, 1799.

"Little Miss Ridgely" [Abraham's daughter] is at present called Augusta. Mr. Lee and Nancy Brooks, Dr. Waltham and Polly Cummins, Bill Jones and Betsy McNat have all recently been married. James Stewart and Ann Bullen are reported married in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Ridgely adds that a gift of clothing is being sent for Peggy O'Brien. Is concerned over Ann's being in the City in hot weather. Warns her against going into "any dirty Alley." Henry and Mary [Ridgely] will leave in a few days to bring her home. Appreciates Mrs. Gore's "friendly and polite attention."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], May 23, 1799.

Is sending a gift for Peggy [O'Brien] by Mr. Wootten. Expects a "House full of young Company: Mr. and Miss Macombe, Mr. Bellach, Messrs. T. and J. Clayton, Mr. J. Polk, Mr. N. Sykes, and Mr., Mrs. and Miss Broom." Miss [Mary] Bassett has gone with "her father and Mrs. [Richard] Bassett to Dorset on a visit to Uncle Harry." Suspects she would rather be one of the Ridgely guests. Hopes Mary and Henry can come for Ann soon.

A. L. [S. inferred] 2 pp. 16cm. x 19.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, May 27, 1799.

Has seen [Mr.] Lowber and [Mr.] Huston, both of whom "look wretched", Mrs. Alston and Betsy, and Jim Harper, all Delawareans. Also saw Nat Sykes at the play. Called on Mrs. Roberts, with whom her mother once boarded. "Mrs. Cadwalader and the Bonds, I suppose, and [David] Erskine, for he's always tag[g]ing after them" just returned from Downings Town. Had intended visiting the Poyntells, but instead attended a play with the Misses Parsons, their father and Miss [Rebecca] Bond. Liked it better than the last. Is anxious to be home. The [ship] *Delaware* is expected up shortly.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], May 28, 1799.

Henry and Mary plan to leave early the following morning to bring Ann home. Hopes to see them all in a few days. Williamina [Ridgely] sends for two pairs of black morocco slippers. Her mother invites Ann's friends to visit her in Dover. Speaks particularly of Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Rowan and her daughters, the Hamilton, Bond and Travis families, Mrs. Cadwalader, and Judge Smith and his family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Phila[delph]ia, May 29, 1799.

Arrived safely after a trip, pleasant except for the crowded coach. Tom Cad[walader] has left with [David] Erskine for three months in Canada. His mother, sister, and [aunt] Becky Bond are well. All received [Mary and Henry] affectionately. Nancy [Ridgely] is well, and has grown. Doubts, however, that she will "wish to visit Philadelphia again; she has not liked it by any means", and avoids invitations to the Cadwalader home. Has not yet seen the Rowan family. Chev[a]l[ier] and Mme. de Firise, and the Rundles have gone to England. Worries about "our poor little horses" and supposes Harry's is now dead. Miss Lausaner is to be married soon.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15.9cm. x 19.5cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Philadelphia, c. June 1799].

Sends a memorandum of their account, but is confused over certain items and asks Mrs. Ridgely to "just say how we are now." Refers to a purchase of dimity petticoats, tea and muslin.

A. N. U. 1 p. 20cm. x 16cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from GEO[RGE] W. RIDGELY, Wilmington, [Del.], July [sic, postmark shows June] 22, 1799.

Saw Tom Cadwalader and [David] Erskine yesterday on their way to dinner at [John] Dickinson's. There is now no one in town he knows. Has not seen the gunsmith, Frederick Schrider, about Henry's [Ridgely] pistols.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 32cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] R[ACHE]L CAMPBELL, [Nova Scotia], July 6, [1799].

Has not yet recovered from the complications of a confinement the previous fall. Grieves deeply for the loss of a small son who strikingly resembled her father [Thos. Wm. Moore]. Alludes to visiting "Moore Hall" in childhood. Mentions her living children, and her sister Jane [Jones] and husband.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23.7cm.

JANE [MRS. JACOB JONES, Dover], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Nov. 23, 1799.

Thinks she would be wise to keep Ruth Connor, "a young, healthy, good temper[e]d girl, fond of your children," as "good girls now a'days are not often to be hired."

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

JANE [MRS. JACOB JONES, Dover], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover, c. Dec. 1799].

Regrets her inability to offer a room to Jane and her two sons, but, when the new overseer comes, the house will be full. Servant problems and her own illness would, in addition, make it impossible for them to be comfortable.

A. Df. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19cm.

[JOHN?] BATTELL, [Dover], from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 3, 1799.

Orders spices; asks if he "can meet with a piece of black Muslin as well colour'd and as good as the bit enclos'd . . . as it is very proper for mourn'g."

A. N. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from GEORGE W. RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], Dec. 11, [1799].

Hopes to have time to equip himself before the *Ganges* arrives, "as the wind is ahead." Will shortly have his "undress uniform" and will then get his dress clothes. [Daniel] Polk has gone to the City for swords, dirks, etc. for both, since none could be secured in Wilmington. [John] Bird, a partner of [James] Riddle has been very kind, and promises to obtain the articles he needs. Discusses business. [Peter] Blight's big ship, the *China,* is reputed "to be too large to pass between this [town] and the City." Saw [James A.] Bayard, who told him he and Polk had been first appointed to the *Philadelphia,* which is not expected to sail until spring, but were transferred to the *Ganges* because of their eagerness to start. "I hope I have no need to remind you to be careful of Cub" [his horse].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.6cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], Dec. 13, 1799.

Saw his brother George safely aboard the *Ganges* and interested the officers, "Capt. Mullowny" and lieutenants Mercer and Murdock, in his welfare. Has obtained all bedding, clothing, etc. necessary for the voyage, and "Tea, Coffee, Chocolate, Gin, Brandy, Sugar and several other Things which the officers told me would be very convenient and comfortable to him." Believes George will find the officers "polite and obliging." Though the ship sails from Reedy Island under sealed orders, he thinks it will go to the West Indies and return in the spring. Neither [Mr.] Rush nor [Daniel] Polk are yet aboard.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.5cm. x 20cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from GEO[RGE] W. RIDGELY, [U. S. S.] *Ganges,* [Dec.] 23, 1799.

Writes a hasty message to be sent ashore with the pilot. Is pleased with the officers and crew. Likes his station. Has dined with the Captain and the lieutenants, a particular honor. There are nine midshipmen aboard. Expects a long cruise "and you cannot hear from me."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 32.5cm.

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from J[ANET] F. [MRS. JACOB] JONES, [Dover, c. 1800].

Thanks her aunt for assistance and thoughtfulness during the illness of her infant son Louis [Jones]. Believes he is now recovering. Describes some of his symptoms. Has heard that "the Frigate" has been sighted off the coast. Mentions her [son] William [Jones], Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely and Mrs. Wilson.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 16.7cm.

[MRS. JACOB JONES, Dover], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover, c. 1800].

Expresses sympathy upon the death of Mrs. Jones' infant son [Louis], whose illness had been painful.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 16.2cm. x 19.7cm.

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from J[ANET] F. [MRS. JACOB] JONES, [Dover, c. 1800].

Still feels "very unwell." Is sorry "Willy" and Mary [Ridgely] are indisposed. [Her son] Will[ia]m [Jones] is well.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, c/o MISS BASS, High Street, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] ELIZABETH KERSHAW, [née Freeman], Edinburgh, [Scotland], Feb. 22, 1800.

Has had an unexpected opportunity to have a letter delivered to an American-bound ship. Writes jointly to the Ridgely family, who she hopes have survived the recent highly fatal epidemics [of yellow fever]. Eagerly considers the possibility that business will bring her and her husband to her native country soon, and that she may again see her Dover friends. Changes her residence frequently, since clergymen are transferred every two years. Describes Edinburgh and discusses religion.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from THO[MA]S ROTHWELL, [n. p.], Mar. 13, 1800.

Recommends John Caughun as a sound mortgage risk, and acknowledges past courtesies received from Mrs. Ridgely.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 17cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from GEORGE W. RIDGELY, [U. S. S.] *Ganges*, off New Castle, [Del.], May 5, 1800.

Has just returned from a "disagreeable" cruise. The *Ganges* was the first American vessel to visit Carthagina and "the Spanish coast of South America." Lost two convoys, each within a few days after sailing. Several passengers "are very bad with the Small Pox." Is concerned at not hearing from the family. Will write whenever he can, "but this is not like Collige." Visited Havana, where large Spanish vessels are making no attempt to defend their shipping against English forays. Appreciates the thoughtfulness shown by John Clark and Brother N[icholas] R[idgely] before he sailed. Mentions his colt. Encloses an itemized account of his expenses since December 15, 1799.

A. L. S. [enclosure] 2 pp. + 1 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from HENRY M. RIDGELY, Philadelphia, May 10, 1800.

Mrs. Cadwalader sends a business message concerning "the power of attorney you gave her." Has purchased Stuart's *History of Scotland, The Children of the Abbey, Caroline of Litchfield, The Old English Baron, The Robbers,* and "Mr. Ames's *Oration on Gen. Washington.*" Hopes to get Linn's and Alsop's *Poems*. Other titles ordered are not available. Is tired of Philadelphia and may extend his trip "as far as Carlisle." The *Ganges* has not yet arrived. Refers to a duel between Mr. Bayard and Mr. Champlin. Asks further instruction before ordering the wines.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from GEO[RGE] W. RIDGELY, [U. S. S.] *Ganges,* Philadelphia, May 12, [1800].

Press of duty has prevented his writing for some days. They lay several days "at the Fort" after leaving New Castle, and so escaped having "those pirates" executed aboard. Saw Dine Wynkoop and S[amuel] White. Plans to sail in the *Insurgent* with Wynkoop. All the warrant officers are leaving the *Ganges*. "Tell Polly [to] take care of Cub." Wm. Lewis, John Polk and Joseph Field "have been arrested by Capt. Mullowney, which will go rather hard with him."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER], Philad[elphi]a, May 12, 1800.

Asks if she shall fill the order Mary [Ridgely] gave for a gown completely different from "any other in that part of the World", or if she shall send identical ones for both sisters as Mrs. Ridgely directed. Requests a statement of their general account and Nancy's [Ridgely] school expenses. Hears George [Ridgely] looks well and is sorry his mother could not see him [at New Castle]. The Bond family thinks Harry [Henry Ridgely] greatly improved. [David] Erskine and [his wife] Fanny [née Cadwalader] are visiting Federal City via Lancaster and Baltimore. Begs the Ridgely family to leave Dover for August, at least, for the sake of both Mrs. Ridgely and Williamina. Refers to bank business.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.7 cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], May 17, 1800.

Discussess the purchase of materials for Mary's and "Willy's" [Ridgely] dresses, and the small choice available, partly because "the bad pay here" has cut imports from London. Tells of the estrangement of Mrs. Lawrence from her once adored daughter for some time before their recent deaths. Nancy Allen had recently been "the old lady's" favorite. "I never have the sleeves of gingham lined." Comments that George [Ridgely] is "almost as handsome as Harry."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.7cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from GEO[RGE] W. RIDGELY, Baltimore, [Md.], June 26, 1800.

Sends an account of his recent expenses. Just visited Aunt [Elizabeth, Mrs. Thomas] Dorsey and found the family "very clever indeed." Sam Ridgely and D[yne] Wynkoop accompanied him. Has arranged for board at $5.00 weekly. Is pleased with his ship. Mentions [his shipmate, Daniel] Polk.

A. L. S. [enclosure] 2 pp. + 1 20cm. x 32cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Fells Point, [Md.], July 11, 1800.

Will sail in a few days for a cruise of about three months against French privateers in the West Indies. Tells his mother, however, not to be uneasy "if we are gone 3 years as there is not the least danger." There will be twenty midshipmen aboard. Had a large breastpin made of the ring Mary [Ridgely] gave him. Sends his account. Mentions [Mr.] Campbell and [Daniel] Polk.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from GEO[RGE] W. RIDGELY, [U. S. S.] *Insurgente,* [near Baltimore, Md.], July 17, 1800.

Sends a brief note to tell of his departure and reassure his mother. Has everything he needs. Will write from Norfolk if possible.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.5cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from GEORGE W. RIDGELY, [U. S. S.] *Insurgente,* off Annapolis, [Md.], July 21, 1800.

The *Insurgente's* company is busy taking aboard supplies for a rather short cruise. There are fifteen midshipmen. [Daniel] Polk has arrived. Mentions [Mr.] Wootten and brother Nicholas [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZABETH [MRS. THOS.] DORSEY, Balt[imor]e, Md., July 28, 1800.

George [Ridgely] spent much time with her family while in Baltimore and made an excellent impression. Extends an invitation to any of the Ridgely family to visit. Would like to come to Dover but fears it will never be possible. Urges her sister [in-law] to write frequently. Mentions [Dyné] Wynkoop.

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from GEO[RGE] W. RIDGELY, [U. S. S.] *Insurgente,* Hampton Roads, [Va.], July 30, 1800.

Had a tiresome trip down the river and thinks Hampton Roads the "most disagreeable" spot he ever saw for a layover. Describes the accommodations on shipboard, probably the best in the Navy, but fears he can never learn "to like the life." A midshipman who was struck with a speaking trumpet by the Captain plans to write in protest to the Secretary of the Navy, and if he receives no satisfaction, to resign. Expects no further opportunity to write.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15cm. x 19cm.

MRS. [THOMAS] DORSEY, [Elk Ridge, Md.], from MRS. ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Aug. 11, 1800.

Expresses gratitude for the courtesies extended to her son, George, while visiting with them before sailing. Mentions Mary and Nancy [Ridgely] and cousins Juliet and Matilda [Dorsey].

A. Df. U. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 32cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Duck Creek?, Del.], Sept. 21, 1800.

Reassures Mrs. Ridgely about the wisdom of a proposed purchase from Mr. Noxon. Is not well. Mentions Harry [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 9.7cm. x 16cm.

[MRS. JACOB JONES, Dover], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Nov. 21, 1800.

Lends Jo [a slave] to bring wood and water for her and suggests that she live with the Ridgelys until March. Tells Mrs. Jones to keep her house, but close it, so that there will be a comfortable home for her husband upon his return.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 18cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], Nov. 21, [1800].

Sends the worsted damask ordered for a wrapper, but plainly disapproves of it as out of fashion. Also sends green baize, a muff and fifty yards of carpeting. Is worried over the approaching confinement of [her daughter] Fanny [Erskine]. Hopes Mrs. Ridgely's "mind is [soon] made easy abo[u]t George."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 31.5cm.

MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from J[ANET] F. [MRS. JACOB] JONES, [Dover], Nov. 27, 1800.

Accepts her aunt's offered hospitality on condition that she be allowed to bear certain expenses herself and assist with the work. Mentions her husband, and "Willy," Mary and Nancy [Ridgely]. Mr. [Jacob] Jones will save for New Year's Day the pickles given him before he sailed.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 17.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Dec. 18, 1800.

Tells of the birth of her granddaughter Fanny [Erskine]. Her daughter Fanny [Mrs. David Erskine] is recovering satisfactorily. Bought some "Russia Diaper" but no breakfast cloths. All groceries and dry goods are high. Mentions the bank stock dividend. Pities the neglected "little Goldsborough left in [Provost Wm.] Smith's power." Refers to the education of Sally [Goldsborough]. Dislikes travel in a "chair" for a woman or girl.

A. L. [S. torn off] 3 pp. 20cm. x 32cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY and FAMILY, Dover], from [MRS. ELIZABETH KERSHAW], Edinburgh, [Scotland], Dec. 20, 1800.

Is delighted to hear again from the Ridgely family and cannot understand how previous letters have all miscarried. Tells something of her marriage and life as a minister's wife in Scotland. Writes at length of religion. Will send a Methodist magazine containing her husband's picture as soon as it is published. He may visit America during the coming year but the expense will prevent her from accompanying him.

A. L. [incomplete] 4 pp. 18.5cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER], Philad[elphi]a, Jan. 10, 1801.

An unusually large dividend has been declared on bank stock. Wishes Mrs. Ridgely would permit Mr. [John] Travis or Tom [Cadwalader] to collect her dividends. Comments acidly on [Rev. Wm.] Smith, [Mr. Charles Goldsborough] and their plans for the education of Sally [Goldsborough]. Is glad Mary's mind is "more easy on George's [Ridgely] account." Thinks he may wish to resign his commission when he returns. Now has sufficient room to entertain any of the family whenever they can visit. Is anxious to introduce her infant granddaughter. "A raw Irish woman . . . [but] an excellent creature" has been employed to care for the baby. Refers to Marie Ringold, Miss Stuart (Major Butler's niece), [Mrs.] Capron's school, [David] Erskine, Wm. Goldsborough, Dr. Andrews of Philadelphia, and "poor Primus."

A. L. [S. torn off] 3 pp. 20cm. x 32.5cm.

MR. . . . HIRONS, [no address], from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 13, 1801.

Will pay on demand an installment of a hundred pounds on her bond assigned to him by Benjamin and James Noxon. Wishes the bond brought as an identification by any messenger unknown to her.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.5cm. x 22cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], April 17, 1801.

Has purchased a quarter cask of Lisbon wine for Mrs. Ridgely at ten shillings a gallon. Recommends a barrel of strong beer instead of porter, which ships badly. Her mother sends a "pot of ginger, a piece of cheese and 25 lemons" as a gift. Mrs. Cadwalader would appreciate "some common roots" for her garden. Asks if "an English letter" recently forwarded to Dover has arrived.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 32cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Phila[delphia, c. May 28, 1801].

Notifies Mrs. Ridgely of a change in the order for wine. She should obtain it from J . . . and Robert Waln. It is now too late to purchase beer. Has just collected a $200.00 bank dividend for her aunt and asks for a statement of their accounts.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.7cm. x 25.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from W[ILLIAMINA, MRS. PHINEAS] BOND, Philadelphia, May 30, 1801.

Sends her sister a box of citron by Mr. Tilghman and has another for [her niece] Jane, [Mrs. Jacob] Jones, which is ready to be sent at the next opportunity.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MR. [HENRY] COWGILL, [Little Creek Hd., Del.], from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Oct. 7, 1801.

Requests the release of "my little black girl", Sarah, for whom an exceptionally fine place in Philadelphia is available if she is sent at once. She will be taught to read and write in addition to learning all the usual household duties. Offers the child's thirteen-year-old sister in exchange for her.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 20.3cm.

[Mr. Cowgill replied on the same sheet, refusing to surrender the child until he has seen the substitute. Is not well enough to come at once. Denies that the little girl was sent to him with any reservations.

[Ann Ridgely's personal papers contain an indenture, Jan. 2, 1802, binding Sarah to Mr. Cowgill, specifying the same advantages for her as those noted in connection with the Philadelphia place, and that in case of illness a physician and the care he would accord one of his own family be provided for her.]

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER], Philad[elphi]a, Dec. 9, 1801.

Sends a barrel containing "50 w[eigh]t of coffee, 7 loaves of sugar, two pieces of linnen, a carpet rug, six pounds of raisons, two bags of rice and three small bundles." Explains the purchases. The carpet rug is "to lay before the hearth over a good carpet." A trunk of Mary's [Ridgely] things also brings the tea, "Tappioca Pearl Barley, . . . and 7 tumblers such as the fine sweet meats come in."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 32cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS. PHINEAS BOND, Philadelphia, c. Dec. 9, 1801].

A brief note accompanying a gift and asking that Mrs. [Jacob] Jones' package be sent to her.

A. N. U. 1 p. 10.8cm. x 11cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from L[AVINIA, MRS. JOHN] FISHER, [Dover, ante Jan. . . . 1802].

Is glad her small gift proved acceptable, as she has received so many without being able to make any previous return. Was pleased with the citron, "a great rarity indeed."

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 16cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from J[ANET] F. [MRS. JACOB] JONES, Brooklyn, [N. Y.], April 24, 1802.

Describes her small daughter [Williamina Jones], who she hopes may "compensate, if possible, for the loss of our darling and beloved William." Would like to visit Dover when her husband returns. Richard [Ayscough, her half-brother] sails soon for India. Expects to stay in Brooklyn instead of continuing to Rhode Island. Mentions her mother [Mrs. Thos. Wm. Moore], sister Mrs. [Ann] Sands and the latter's infant John [Sands]. Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond and her family were very cordial but Mrs. [John] Travis did not call; "had I been rich, I would have been surprised." Her mother expects a pension soon. Offers to do any errands in New York the Ridgely family may wish. Refers to Mrs. Tredell (née Jane Moore).

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Del., April 27, 1802.

Arrived last night at "Prospect Hill" to visit the Wethereds. Gives news of their family and an account of her trip. Is less tired than she expected. James Noxon, the shock of whose revival from apparent death killed his aunt Mrs. Frisby, later committed suicide. Mentions Mrs. [C. A.] Rodney, Augusta Chambers, and Sally and Kitty Wethered.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, "Prospect Hill", near Wilmington, Del., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, April 28, 1802.

Hopes Ann's trip will improve her health. Gives her permission to go on to Philadelphia. Bishop Asbury is to preach "in the Meeting House", then go to Philadelphia with Mr.

[Richard] Bassett. Mentions a letter to Henry [Ridgely] from Charles H. Graves and names several recent callers. Offers [Ann's hosts] the Wethereds some asparagus. "Tho' all my life long, till ab[ou]t a year ago very fond of scribbling" has not, since then, written "a single line." Speaks of Peter Miller's funeral and the death of "old Mrs. Rowan."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS ANN RIDGELY], "Federal Hill", Wilm[ingto]n, Del., May 2, 1802.

Is greatly enjoying her visit in Wilmington. Tells of a horseback ride, a trip to the Paper Mill which she failed to complete, and numerous calls. Considers Maria Dickinson the prettiest girl in town. Also describes Eliza George, Kitty and Harriett Wynkoop, "Susan Hamilton (the late marshall's daughter)" and James and Hetty Canby. "I have heard 'tis Sidney Smith, not Betsey Wilson [of Baltimore], Harry [Ridgely] is to be married to." Would like to go to Philadelphia. Discusses dry goods purchases. Mentions Dr. [James] Tilton, the Wethered family, Henry [Vining?], Mr. Latta, Princeton Smith, Mr. & Mrs. W. Finney, Mrs. Munroe, Mrs. Brooks, "Col. Rodney", Mr. Sword of Philadelphia, "poor Graves" and Mary Vining, and Mary Bassett, Ann Garnett and Betsey Wilson (all of Dover). Wants brown silk for sleeves, inquires about her pets and explains a delay in mailing her letter.

A. L. [S. torn off] 3 pp. 18cm. x 22.6cm.

MRS. [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], May 5, 1802.

Accepts an invitation for her daughter Mary to visit in Philadelphia and believes it will benefit her health as she has been ill. Nancy [Ridgely] has visited ten days at "Prospect Hill", Dr. Wharton's former residence. Requests that funds be supplied to Mary and Ann as she does not wish them to carry money with them.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Fed[eral] Hill, Wilm[ington], Del., May 6, 1802.

Had a tiresome ride up in a stage crowded with fifteen passengers. Dr. Ham and Allen McLane were aboard. Alludes to Kitty, Mary, Matilda, Harriet and Perry Wethered, Mrs. Wethered and Nat Sykes. [Her sister] Ann and pretty Kitty Wethered went with her to Philadelphia. Had a pleasant chat at New Castle with [Mr.] Rogers who had watched for the stage and seemed much pleased to see her. At Wilmington she met Tom Macomb who "looked very handsome." Has worried about home, and would have returned at once "if anyone had been going down."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER] and [MISS MARY RIDGELY], Phi[ladelphia], May 9, 1802.

Mrs. Cadwalader tells of the birth of [her grandson] Tom [Erskine], whose mother, Fanny [Mrs. David Erskine], is recovering rapidly. Was delighted to see Ann and Mary [Ridgely]. Hopes they will stay long enough to benefit from "change of air and scene", and wishes Mrs. Ridgely and "Willy" would come also. Thinks she could convince "Willy" that "she never had reason to treat me with the distance . . . that she has done for a long time." Asks a statement of their account.

Mary [Ridgely] worries at not hearing from home. Remarks about Fanny's [Erskine] youthful appearance despite her two children, whom she describes. Their father is "genteel, sensible, sociable and handsome." Finds it hard to understand how anyone can fail to like him. Tom Cadwalader, now "tall and quite fat" is "much improved" as is Sally Goldsborough, who soon leaves school, "where to go she knows not." [Samuel Blodgett] is in Boston; his wife and children are still "just over the Schuylkill." Speaks of Becky and Mr. [Phineas] Bond, Mrs. Cadwalader, Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond, Kitty Wethered, and Peggy and Becky Hamilton. Wishes home conditions would allow her to pay a long visit. Their Aunt is hurt at Ann's refusal to stay at her house. Many "elegant" new buildings have been erected since she was last in Philadelphia. "The Water house up the street looks well as you go up Town, but not as you come into Market Street. River water is used I believe altogether; one of the little Pumps is at our door." Tells of her own and Ann's social activities.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18cm. x 22cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, May 9, 1802.

Complains of receiving but one letter since leaving home. Was warmly received by her Philadelphia relatives and friends and has been constantly busy with social engagements. Does not, however, enjoy them much or feel any better. The Erskines will return to England next month. Their son, Thomas, is a healthy infant. Refers to the Bond, Travis and Cadwalader families, S[ally] Banning and Sally G[oldsborough]. Is searching for the chintz her mother wants. Quotes prices of several kinds. Friends comment that she has "grown very tall and thin." Speaks of James, Andrew and Peggy Hamilton, Kitty [Wethered], Capt. Sword, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Welch, Betsy Carson, Betsy Markoe in High Street, Mrs. G. Willing and her small daughter Maria, the Rowans, Miss Kirkwood of Newark, Del., Mrs. Capron, and Mary [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.6cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Philadelphia, post May 9, 1802].

Since either Mary or Nancy [Ridgely] will give all the news of the family, she writes only a brief business note.

A. N. U. 1 p. 25.6cm. x 20.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, May 13, 1802.

Is provoked with Becky Hamilton and Kitty Wethered for causing her to miss an opportunity to send tea and some gifts to her mother by Mr. Clayton. Has "ever since had a sick headache from anxiety about you." The Erskines leave [for England] on the June packet. Though Fanny is willing to leave her daughter [Fanny Erskine] with her mother, and [David] Erskine would consent if they were to be in the same country, he refuses "to leave [the child] in another." Mrs. Cadwalader never mentions the subject. Has procured two pairs each of black and white silk stockings for Henry [Ridgely] at a reasonable price. "Tell him pantaloons and half boots are all the Ton, . . . and when dressed, blue or black coat, white waistcoat, black smalls and [stockings], for which reason I got him two pair." Pleads with her mother to persuade Harry to delay his trip to Baltimore a few days until she can come home for her clothes. She will be too bitterly disappointed to forgive him if she cannot go [to her aunt, Mrs. Dorsey's]. Mrs. Harry Clymer's daughter has died of scarlet fever and another of her children is ill. The Travis family have left town to avoid the infection "fatal to children." The Gibsons, Betsy Tilghman and Nancy Clymer have visited her. Betsy White was married last night to Gen[era]l McPherson. Plans to see Mrs. Moore and Mrs. [Williamina] Pawling. Mentions the Hamilton family and Mrs. Mifflin.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18cm. x 22.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, May 16, 1802.

Begs Harry [Ridgely] to delay his trip to Baltimore for a few days so she can go with him to visit her aunt [Mrs. Thos. Dorsey]. Will come either with Mr. [Richard] Bassett or with Nancy [Ridgely] who is travelling with Mr. and Mrs. [Wm. H.] Wells. Discusses the Wethereds, mentioning Mary, Perry and Kitty. Writes scathingly of Mrs. [Williamina] Pawling's mother. Mrs. Pawling has yielded to Mrs. [Phineas] Bond's entreaties to have her children inoculated, since a servant is ill of smallpox, "which everybody here shuns, and takes the cow pox which is so very trifling." Joined several of the family in a pleasant trip to "Rockwell," the Bonds' summer home a mile beyond Germantown. Speaks of "planting and sowing flowers" there. Mrs. Stuart (née West) is a widow, Mrs. Baldwin (née Nixon) recently died and Mrs. Kitland is dangerously ill. Pities the Murgatroids "who have broke all to pieces and dare not show their faces. . . . They were injured by [Peter] Blight, I hear." Mentions Arch McCall and Henry, Kitty and Maria Chew. Sends "Willy" [Ridgely] a full description of the fashionable [empire] dress now so popular in Philadelphia. Has black kid shoes for her mother but found no black chintz. Worries about the delivery of tea and . . . Carrow's destruction of her timber.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, 133 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], May 17, 1802.

Is concerned over failure of a trunk to arrive from Philadelphia. Harry [Ridgely] may meet his sisters in Wilmington or Philadelphia before going to Baltimore. Hopes Ann will bring some friends home with her. Mentions Polly Stanton, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton and Sally [Clayton?]. "Old Riley, the Jailer in Dover is dead." Likes Ann's dress material but wants none for herself unless "a black ground" is available. Both girls may draw on their mother's balance in Mrs. Cadwalader's hands.

W[illiamina] R[idgely] adds a note inquiring about "old Mr. Mackoe," Betsey [Mackoe?] and Miss Bass.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, Del., May 21, 1802.

Harry's [Ridgely] promise to take her to Baltimore in June has consoled her somewhat for being left behind, though she was bitterly disappointed. Her hosts, Mr. and Mrs. [Jas. A.] Bayard have been very kind. Mentions the Wethered family, [Mrs. Thos. Dorsey], Juliet [Dorsey], Bell Rowan, and Polly's [Mary W. Ridgely?] illness. Was concerned over the safety of Nancy [Ridgely] and Mrs. [Wm. H.] Wells after they started home until she saw their crowded stage was across the [Christina] river without mishap. Urges her mother not to worry about her own arrival since she is not certain when she will start. Implies that Harry has not been well and that her mother is very lonely.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Baltimore, Md., May 23, 1802.

Arrived safely. Has seen Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, Harriet and Matilda Dorsey and Mrs. [Thos.] D[orsey] and her family. Likes Baltimore and admires some of its buildings, but it does not compare in beauty with Philadelphia. Is uncertain when he will return.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 26.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] ANN WILSON, Philadelphia, July 6, 1802.

Writes to renew an interrupted correspondence. Has married since they last met, but fears her husband has been lost at sea. Identifies herself as Ann Rannalds who used to live with Miss Fergerson, the school mistress.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. [WILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, "Rockwell," [Penna.], July 18, [1802].

Is worried over "Willy's" [Ridgely] illness. Plans to stay in the country rather late "on the child's [Fanny Erskine] acc[oun]t." Her daughter, Mrs. David Erskine, has sailed. Plans to join her [in England]. Yellow fever is in Philadelphia. Dr. Griffiths says "proofs of [its] foreign origin are unequivocal." Has arranged for the purchase of the goods Harry [Ridgely] wants if they can be obtained at "Mr. Yard's vendue;" otherwise they cannot be gotten until the danger is past. If new beds are to be made, recommends Rich[ar]d Wevill, a competent upholsterer, whose estimate she encloses. Bedsteads, of which he shows three sketches, range from $12.00 to $22.00; feather bed, bolster and pillows, from $35.00 to $50.00; and hair mattresses, $27.00 to $35.00.

A note added later in the day reports the epidemic worse than she had thought.

A. L. U. [1 enclosure] 3 + 1 pp. 20.8cm. x 31.8cm.

[MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, c/o HENRY RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from JOHN DICKINSON, Wilmington, Del., Mar. 29, [sic; postmarked Aug. 2], 1802.

Renews his invitation for Nancy [Ridgely] to spend the remainder of the summer at his home. His daughter, Maria [Dickinson] will be home and Nancy will be free to "do just as she pleases." His carriage will meet her at Appoquinimink Bridge if her mother wishes.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from JANET F. [MRS. JACOB] JONES, New York, [N. Y.], Aug. 6, 1802.

Plans to start housekeeping, and will have room for any of the Ridgely girls who can visit her. Her daughter, Williamina [Jones] is ill. Alludes to a shawl, ribbons, a bottle of rose water, a book and material for a dress, gifts for her Dover friends and relatives. Sends a small payment on a bill and expects to have a larger sum as soon as her own pay arrives. Mentions Mr. and Mrs. Rumsey, John Allen and the members of the Ridgely family.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 32.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Wilmington, [Del., Dec. 14, 1802].

Though the stage was crowded with fifteen passengers, and rain beat in part of the way, she and Henry [Ridgely] arrived safe at Bayards'. Could not get a letter into the mail, since the postmaster will accept nothing after the closing hour. Is concerned about her mother's infected thumb. Saw "Tom Lowber and his bride" at Duck Creek. Mrs. [Jas. A.] Bayard is not well, but "flies about as usual."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.8cm. x 25.5cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Wilmington, [Del.], Dec. 16, 1802.

Finds the Bayards extremely kind hosts. Tells of calls made and received, mentioning Mrs. Bayard and Mary [Bassett?], Miss [Sally] Banning, Miss Hunn, Miss Bayard, the Wethered girls, Miss [Mary] Vining, Henry [Vining], the Dickinsons, [Mr.] Rogers, [Mr.] Reynolds, and the Bayard children, Richard, Caroline and James, [Jr.]. Sends some handsome dark blue satin for Ann [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.6cm. x 25.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], Dec. 20, 1802.

The Bond family all made a great fuss over her on her arrival. Has a fire in her room morning and evening. Describes the children [Fanny] Erskine, and Betsy and Williamina Travis. "All this family think Ann [Ridgely] is a fine sensible clever girl, if she would only leave off grunting and groaning and w[oul]d eat and drink as other people do." Harry [Ridgely] plans to stay a few days longer. "Molly Dickinson is to be married this winter to Fox." Describes Maria and Sally Dickinson in uncomplimentary terms. Refers to Molly Pemberton, . . . Dunwoody's death, Ned Tilghman and his mother, and other acquaintances. Finds Philadelphia "much altered for the worse." "Henny [a servant, possibly a former slave] is married to the coachman, a white man." Worries about her mother's infected thumb.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY, Philadelphia], Dec. 22, 1802.

Harry is about to return. Was tempted to go with him because of concern over her mother. Has decided on square instead of round frames for the pictures. "Old Nurse Ashmead" has been dead some years. Saw the home "Peggy McCall and Kitty Inglis" have built on Pine St. Gives news of Billy Smith and family, and Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett and family. Changed her mind about a wig and "shall do with my own hair." [Mr.] Harwood, who keeps a library, is going on the stage again. "Old Bache is very rich but will do nothing for him." Hopes the purchases prove satisfactory.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADAR, [Philadelphia], Dec. 22, 1802.

Regrets having asked a statement of the account while writing was still difficult for Mrs. Ridgely. For her convenience she sends her own figures for verification. Hopes "Willy" [Ridgely] can make a long visit.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.8cm. x 25.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Philadelphia, post Dec. 22, 1802].

In a brief note on a cover sheet she begs for news about her mother's health, and refers to Mrs. Warner and "poor Mrs. Clayton . . . and her daughter."

Miss Rebecca Bond adds a short greeting, and expresses her hope "Willy's" visit will be long.

A. N. U. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Dec. 28, 1802.

Has had difficulty getting white gloves. Tells of going to church on Christmas with the Bonds and Mrs. Cadwalader. Speaks of the Bass family, Anna Bass' husband, Anna Miller, "her sister M. Bass," the Hamiltons, Mrs. Arch McCall and Mrs. Peter McCall, Mrs. Harry Nixon, Mrs. Wm. Willing, Mrs. Mifflin, Mrs. Clayton and "the Doctor," Charles Goldsborough, Mrs. Galloway and daughter, the Misses Smith, General Lee of Virginia, Mrs. Huger of Carolina, Mr. Duncan of Carlisle [Penna.], Betsy Tilghman, Mr. Chew, and Mr. Okle of England. Alludes to Mrs. Arch McCall as Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader's [step]-daughter. Mrs. Pawling "keeps a hucksters' shop" and is believed to have completely impoverished her children. Tells more of [servant] "Henny's" marriage to Thomas Sims, an Englishman. Gossips about Capt. George Izard. " . . . Fox, Molly Dickinson's intended, has two children and four thousand pounds a year." Called upon the Rowans. Explains how the fashionable silk opera coats are made.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], Jan. 1, 1803.

Sends New Year's greetings. Worries over her mother and Harry [Ridgely]. Discusses [Thomas] Cooper, whom she liked in *Richard III*. Tells anecdotes of little Fanny Erskine and John Travis, [Jr.], and describes both. Refers to Mr. and Mrs. [David] Erskine in England. Gives directions for lining Ann's [Ridgely] opera coat stylishly. Describes Becky Cadwalader's costume. Ann's "dove-coloured shoes" are ready. Fanny [Mrs. David] Erskine's clothes have been much admired and copied in England. "She saw no fashions . . . equal to what she took with her." Mrs. Cadwalader thinks "Willy" and Harry [Ridgely] resemble their father. Alludes to family pictures in her room at Bonds', among them those of her grandmother, Dr. P[hineas] Bond, her great-grandparents, and others. Mentions Miss [Mary] Vining, Miss George and her niece, Sydney George of Maryland, Peggy and Molly Hamilton, Nancy Clymer, "Molly Dickinson and her lover," Mrs. Powel, Betsy Griffits, Maria Smith whom she describes, Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett, Bell Smith, and Charles Smith.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], Jan. 19, 1803.

Called on the Rowans, whom she found very pleasant. They are hurt at Ann's [Ridgely] neglect. There was an entertaining gathering of Englishmen at the Bonds' on the Queen's Birthday. Is, however, becoming bored with the formality of her aunt's home. Sends *Castle of Otranto* for her mother and Ossian's *Poems* for Mary [Ridgely]. Needs additional money. Speaks of social activities, and of Sally and Kitty Wethered, Mrs. Green (née Burgess), now living in England, S[am] Murgatroyd, his wife and children, Peter McCall, Kitty Inglis, "Old Frederick Smith" and his wife, Mrs. Galloway, the Gibsons, [Mrs.] Betsy Miller, whom Betsy Tilghman described as "painted up to the eyes" at the Assembly and whom Tom Cadwalader thought beautiful, and Dr. Caldwell's wife. Wants the tube-roses carefully tended. Sends love to N[icholas] and A[braham] Ridgely and [the latter's daughter], Mary [W. Ridgely].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Philad[elphi]a, Jan. 20 [1803].

Discusses their account. Sends receipts from Rich[ar]d Wevill, and Joseph Richardson, the latter for "silver spoons and tongs, $23.17." Is pleased to find Williamina [Ridgely] in such good health and spirits. Refers to [her granddaughter].

A. L. S. [2 enclosures] 2 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Jan. 26, 1803.

Wealthy "old Mrs. Harrison" is being buried today. Despite her opposition, her granddaughter Betsy White is betrothed to the undesirable Mr. McPherson. Sturge Moore has deserted his wife "Willy" [daughter of Thos. Wm. Moore], their daughter, and son Rowley. Mr. [Phineas] Bond is "extremely kind" to the family. The only son of Mr. Pearce and his wife (formerly Relfe) died on his way to England. Betsy Tilghman is pretty, but "like a true Chew she makes fun and is rude to her best friends." She and Mary Galloway look alike. Miss G[alloway]'s mother "is the image of old fox." Mentions Ossian's *Poems* and *Castle of Otranto*. Mr. [Phineas] Bond promises some garden seed. Will also buy "corn sallad [Valerianella, lamb's lettuce] seed." A tea chest makes a nice work box. Kitty Wethered has reported that S[ally]

B[anning] "had refused Harry [Ridgely]." Writes caustically of Kitty's refusal to attend the Assembly. Inquires about "poor Mrs. Clayton," Sally . . ., and Mrs. Warner. "Your cousin Mrs. Johnson has but two sons."

A. L. U. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], Jan. 27, 1803.

Acknowledges receipt of $40.00. Heard that the King [of England] was again attacked on his way to Parliament, and that a sizable insurrection was planned. Describes Fanny Erskine, [Mrs. Cadwalader's granddaughter]. Refers to Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Mease, Miss McCall, Miss Inglis, "neighbor Mifflin," Miss Bordley, Ned Burd, Mrs. Philips, Mrs. Nicklin, "little Martin" [a member of the Ridgely household], and Macall Medford. Bill Hamilton is planning a real estate development on "the Woodlands" or "Bush Hill." Alludes to his 81-year-old mother. Thinks "poor Mrs. Clayton" was cruelly treated.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Feb. 1, 1803.

Has received the hair to have a wig made for Mary [Ridgely]. Hopes the purchases for both her sisters, to be sent by Jeffrey Bewley prove satisfactory. Worries over Ann's [Ridgely] illness. Inquires for [the horse] Cub and for [the Negro child] James. Enjoyed an evening of cards and music, as one of about forty guests at Alexander I. Miller's, more than any other party since she arrived. Mrs. Bass is "beginning to enjoy her life." The Prices have adopted his nephew, having no children of their own. Alludes to a family joke about "the coffee cup," and to K[itty] W[ethered], Sally Goldsborough and Mrs. Cadwalader.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21.8cm. x 26cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Feb. 7, 9, 1803.

Dr. [Wm.] Smith has been very ill, "but Aunt [Mrs. Phineas Bond] says he can't die before the 13th of August . . . He is a miserable wretch indeed." Refers to "his poor worthless daughter" and her husband, [Samuel] Blodgett, now in jail in Washington, not in Boston as she had heard. Speaks of Mrs. George Willing, Jeffery [Bewley], Betsy Griffit's infant grandson, Mrs. Mease, Mrs. Waln, members of her own family, and the children John and Williamina Travis and Fanny

Erskine. Andrew Allen's wife is ignored by all his relatives except Mrs. Penn. The Quaker school in Fourth St. burned recently with heavy loss. Mrs. Tilghman is very ill. Discusses articles to be sent to Dover. Hopes Mary W. Ridgely (Abraham's daughter) will spend much time at "Eden Hill." Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond "runs about the house more even, if possible, than our Mary." She herself never attends balls.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21.8cm. x 26cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 10, 1803.

Is disappointed with the garden seed Mr. [Phineas] Bond secured. Sends a quart of ground nuts, a cocoanut, some "solid celery" and some radish. Found no "salmon radish." Yarns are "not to be had for love or money." Explains a present of citron from Mrs. [Phineas] Bond, who still slips up to the attic on errands when she can elude her children's watchfulness. A match between Becky Cadwalader and Phil[omen] Dickinson is rumored. She reputedly inherited a considerable sum, "which I suppose is what put the match in the old miser's head;" hopes she does not marry "the old ugly wretch" for she is still a handsome woman. *Elegant Extracts* is not to be published. Comments on Dr. [Wm.] Smith's advertisement regarding his slave Cyrus, who drinks intemperately: "It is Satan reproving sin." Betsy Carson will soon marry. Mrs. Burrows is dead. The new college building at Carlisle [Penna.] burned before it was complete. Saw Bell Rowan.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21.7cm. x 26cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 12, 1803.

Had trouble packing the rice, books and other articles to be shipped to Dover. Refers to a gift of olives and cheese. Has the corn salad seed; hopes her mother can "raise a fine pond" of it. Will accept the Hamilton sisters' cordial invitation despite the complications arising from a feud between them and the Bonds. Also plans to visit Judge Smith. Encloses the clipping of Dr. Smith's advertisement. Censures him for punishing his slave "for [doing] what he does himself." Sally Burrows, a homely but charming and talented woman, is to marry Mr. Thomson, a Marine officer. Wants to read H. More's *Bleeding Rock and Sir Eldred of The Bower.*

A. L. S. [1 enclosure] 4 pp. 21.7cm. x 25.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], Feb. 13, 1803.

Comments further on the contents of the package to be sent home, mentioning bottled olives, cheese and salsify. There is enough corn salad seed for Henry, Nicholas and Abraham [Ridgely]. Cannot find "Shadacks or Forbidden Fruit." Supposed the recently-deceased H. Ennalls of Dorchester County, Md., was Mrs. Syke's brother-in-law. James Clayton lost heavily in a fire at Dagsborough. Was "vexed at the rudeness of the little brat" when Nancy Travis spoke of Henry [Ridgely] as "ugly." Letters have arrived from the Erskines in England telling of their activities and of the family's devotion to little Tom [Erskine]. Jeffery [Bewley] leaves tomorrow on "the Wilmington Boat."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 21.6cm. x 26cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 16, 1803.

Is annoyed at the delay in getting letters and boxes off. Quotes more from the English letters about the Erskines' activities, giving descriptions of relatives and friends. [Fanny Erskine's] "house is neatly elegant, but not extravagantly furnished. The window curtains in the parlor are scarlet worsted with black Grecian trimmings laid on." Describes old Mrs. Erskine's hat. Fanny [Erskine] cannot bring herself to wear calico in the morning as even fashionable people do in England. Mentions "old Mrs. Chew and Henrietta . . .," Mrs. Carroll with her son Charles and infant daughter, death of Mrs. S. Potts and the remarriage of Isaac Potts. Describes Mrs. [Elizabeth] Miller's hat. Tells how salsify is prepared. "All people of taste admire it, but as I am not *genteel* enough to like Celery neither do I [enjoy] that much."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 21.6cm. x 25.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], Feb. 23, 1803.

Jeffrey [Bewley] has started for Dover. Gave him 75 cents for taking charge of two heavy boxes. Also sends some seeds of "imperial indian pinks," a lovely flower, and some Salmon radish, "solid celery," white and red radish and corn salad. Gives directions concerning nine Illinois nuts, one of which is to be planted. Her Aunt [Mrs. Phineas Bond] also promises a few [seed] nuts from a fine hickory which grew beside the Schuykill at "Moore Hall." Pities Mrs. Pawling, her mother and five children, all living in miserable circumstances. The children are "common, mean-looking ones." After [Mr.] Wignell's death the physicians preserved a vein to defend themselves from a charge of killing him by excessive bleeding. Gossips about his widow. Mrs. Dunn's daughter Sally . . . died of consumption contracted in August. Kitty Wethered has not been popular. Is invited to Dickinsons' and Chews'. Comments on a lampoon of the Lenox family in *Port Folio,* alluding to Miss Keene and Mrs. Lenox. Describes a new dress.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 21.8cm. x 26cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 28, 1803.

Sends an assortment of seeds, commenting on their purchase, description and care. Enclosed bill of Ber[nar]d McMahon lists Star of Bethlehem, crocus, China pinks, caraway, New Zeeland lettuce, "Early Romana and Water Melon," White Blossom, Toker and Early Mazagan beans, Glory of England peas, and several varieties of cucumber. Reminds her mother of instructions about the Illinois nuts. Will dress her "own" hair with a wreath of flowers for the Chews' party. Mrs. [Elizabeth] Miller is considered "a little beauty." Is told she herself resembles Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett. Mentions Kitty Wethered.

A. L. S. 3 + 1 pp. 21.7cm. x 26cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], Mar. 2, 1803.

Fears the seeds may not arrive in time. Star of Bethlehem grew wild at "Moore Hall." Enjoyed the party at the Chews and found the hosts attentive. Mentions Maria [Chew], Mrs. Galloway, Miss Keene, and Mrs. [Elizabeth] Miller.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21.7cm. x 25.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], Mar. 9, 1803.

Alludes to the death of Mrs. Johnson and the "misfortune" of Mrs. Sykes. Describes Dr. Priestly and his daughter-in-law, dinner guests at the Bonds'. Bought *Castle of Otranto* on Mrs. Cadwalader's recommendation; remarks that their tastes certainly differ. Has additional news of Fanny Erskine, who is still contented in England. Mentions the Hamiltons, Rowans, Mrs. T. W. Francis, Betsy Stedman and Mrs. Philips. Inquires about *Public Characters.* Is glad white mantuas are in style.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21.7cm. x 25.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Mar. 13, 1803.

"To look like other people" an umbrella and white veil are "necessities." Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader looks unusually well. Tells of a pleasant evening with the Hamilton family, and of Betsy White's marriage to Mr. McPherson. Writes critically of a mutual acquaintance who has made slurring comments about Mrs. [Elizabeth] Miller for accepting the attentions of [Thomas] Bradford, a printer. Describes Joshua Gilpin's English wife whose nose "sticks up more in the air than any I have yet seen." Alludes to Sally Goldsborough's approaching marriage. Wm. M. Smith is reported planning to visit England and to send a son to France to learn the language. Speaks of various social engagements. Mentions Judge Smith's family, the Misses Yates, Peggy O'Brien, Mrs. A. McCall, Mr. and Mrs. Peter McCall, [Rev.] Dr. Blackwell, Mrs. Rush, Bishop [White], Miss [Becky] Bond, Miss [Kitty] Wethered, Miss Bell, [Mr.] Reinholt, Capt. Provost and Brother A[braham Ridgely]. Gives directions for making necklaces of allspice and gold beads. Is anxious to attend a concert.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21.6cm. x 25.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Mar. 16, 1803.

Passed an agreeable evening at the McCall's party. Describes dresses worn by Molly and Becky Hamilton. Dr. [Wm.] Smith is dangerously ill again. Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett is said to be greatly changed. Inquires about stages to Cambridge, [Md.], and if Mrs. Sykes would be willing to let Sarah . . . , who has not seen her mother since coming from Maryland "many years ago," travel with her. Mrs. Cadwalader will not allow her to make the trip alone.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21.6cm. x 27.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], Mar. 23, 1803.

Hopes her mother can meet Mrs. [Wm. Hill] Wells. Sends several small gifts. Will wear her white mantua, with which she is much pleased, to Miss [Becky] Bond's party. Speaks of various social engagements, and a short visit with Mrs. [John] Travis. Was disappointed in "the two country seats" at Germantown. Wants some tube rose roots for Mrs. Travis and Mrs. Cadwalader. Admires Mrs. Tom Redman. Saw "Robert Morris, as brisk as if he had never been in a cage." Mentions the Lawrence family, Mrs. Kershaw and Mrs. A. I. Miller. Betsy Carson is married. Refers to *The*

Beggar Boy, Bleeding Rock, Sir Eldred of the Bower, and to Humphreys' book store. [Jacob] Jones is in Washington. His wife and child are well.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 31.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Mar. 30, 1803.

Wants to extend her visit, as she is enjoying it more now and feeling better. Describes her dress and coiffure for Miss [Becky] Bond's party. Was never more satisfied, though the costume is "plain" and "most people are decked in spangles." Considers Miss Loveland's dressmaking excellent. Kitty Wethered's ungoverned tongue makes her unpopular. Mrs. [David] Erskine continues well and happy. Her letters give news of "your Cousin Jack Franks," Rowley Moore and his mother [Mrs. Sturge Moore]. Has some attractive but fragile, "smelling bottles" to send home as gifts. Finds Mrs. Travis more congenial than formerly. Comments upon R[ichard] Rush's appearance. Is to see Mrs. Powell, a friend of Mrs. Ridgely. Names various callers.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21.5cm. x 25.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, April 6, 1803.

Recently met Dick Smith. Discusses some Devonshire shawls which will soon be imported, and inquires if she shall order some for the family. Writes flippantly of a planned visit to Dr. Redman's home. Wonders why it is always so "clever" [pleasant] at [John] Dickinson's, but finds it so. Likes Mrs. Sims. Could not get Mrs. Cowley's *Epic Poems.* Frequently sees "Moore Hall Solomon" who still appears deeply attached to the family. Fanny Erskine is a delightful child, and Mrs. Cadwalader disciplines her firmly. Encloses a recipe for preparing salsify. Hears Mr. Lyle is going to England.

A. L. S. [1 enclosure] 4 pp. 21.5cm. x 25.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, April 13, 1803.

Molly Rose is dying and Molly Pemberton is dead. Most of the family are at "Rockwell." Is becoming fonder of all of them, and now likes Philadelphia as well as she did as a girl. [Dr. Wm. Smith] is recovering. Discusses Richard Smith's brother and his nephews Samuel and Richard [Smith], Nancy Travis, and Fanny Erskine who is being strictly brought up by her grandmother. Mentions her "favorite neighbors the Warners," Mrs. Collins, Brother Nicholas [Ridgely] and S[amuel] White, who appears in poor health.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], April 20, 1803.

Describes the funeral procession of Molly Rose, a servant long with the Bond family. Met S[amuel] White who looked "fat but sallow" and learned of "poor [James A.] Bayard's loss." [Dr. Wm. Smith] appears by turns mortally ill and nearly well. His children Mrs. [Sam'l] Blodgett, William and Richard Smith are with him. Likes Dick [Smith] who reminds her of Dr. [J. W.] Moore. Writes of Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Mifflin, Mrs. Wilson and Betsy, Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Sims and her infant son, Maria Dickinson, Dr. [George] Logan and James Logan, Peggy O'Brien and family, [Negro] Grace, Patty Rowan, [Mr.] Lyle, Andrew Hamilton and Mary and Ellen (Lyle]. Her relatives are urging her to stay all summer.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], April 22, 1803.

Captain [Samuel] White has told her of Henry's [Ridgely] duel with [Mr.] Shields. Though he reassured her about her brother's safety she is still "a little agitated" and asks a full account. Hopes her mother is not greatly upset. Called upon Miss George and [Maria] Dickinson at "Stenton." Did not care for the former, but Miss Dickinson and Mrs. [George] Logan, an acquaintance of her mother, made a good impression. Mentions the two Logan sons and an adopted daughter, now "married in Virginia." Supposes Betsy Wilson's wedding is now over.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from JANET F. [MRS. JACOB] JONES, Brooklyn, [N. Y.], April 27, 1803.

Is concerned at the news of Harry's [Ridgely] injury and asks news of him. Her husband has reached home. Describes their daughter Williamina [Jones] who is extremely fond of her father. Writes scathingly of Sturge Moore, now living near Albany, [N. Y.]. Mentions "Brother William's [Moore] wife," sister [Rachel] Campbell, Mrs. Rogers (née Fanny Moore), and "Willy" [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.9cm. x 26.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, April 27, 1803.

Has heard favorable reports from Mr. Warner and others about "Harry's [Ridgely] conduct" [in relation to the duel]. Has ordered black, purple and lead-colored kid shoes for Mary

[Ridgely]. Alludes to [Samuel] White's "intended" in Wilmington. Writes at length about Tom Cadwalader who, with the encouragement of some of the young lady's relatives, paid several visits to Maria Dickinson and then abruptly stopped. Wishes her mother to discover the reason when "the old man" [John Dickinson] visits Dover, and to say a good word for Tom. Points to his pleasing personality and sterling character "but what is of still greater consequence to the old man he has a pretty Fortune, is in business now, and is very attentive to it." Thinks it impossible Maria, whom she now likes and admires, is engaged to Dr. [George] Logan's son, a disagreeable schoolboy. Refers to Mrs. Clayton and the members of her own family, particularly Abraham and Nicholas [Ridgely]. Hopes her sisters will be hospitable to Miss Bayard while she is in Dover. Refers favorably to S[ally] B[anning] and the McKee family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], April 28, [1803].

Is relieved that Henry [Ridgely] escaped permanent injury from his duel and is certain that he was not the aggressor. Speaks of her own doubts and difficulties in raising Tom [Cadwalader]. Is greatly concerned over living arrangements for him when she goes to England with her granddaughter. Wishes he would marry, but fears his choice is Maria Dickinson, whom he has admired since childhood. Is certain the difference in their fortunes would cause her father to oppose any match between them. Williamina [Ridgely] is completely well. Sends "a pair of Branches" [Candelabra] to be hung temporarily in Henry's house, but intended eventually for Mrs. Ridgely.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, April 29, 1803.

Hopes her mother is now satisfied of Harry's [Ridgely] safety. Thinks Mrs. Cadwalader is now handsomer than ever before. Charles Smith thinks Harry will make an excellent lawyer. He regrets his inability to visit Dover, but has had to return home, though his father [Dr. Wm. Smith] remains "in a dying state." Spent a pleasant evening at the Smyths' home, a house "as full of curious and pretty things as the Museum." Speaks of edging, a shawl which her sisters may wear in her absence, scissors "not to be used at all," little smelling bottles, mint-stick, lemon candy, barley sugar and myrtle seed, all recently sent home. Fears Mary's [Ridgely] shoes will not be done in time. Mentions the former Harriet Anderson and "her sister Harris."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from JOHN CLARKE, Dover, April 30, 1803.

Asks the payment of Mrs. Ridgely's bond by May 14th, since he must purchase "10 thousand Dollars worth of stock for the use of the State" and must call in all his own loans to obtain the necessary funds.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 23.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], May 4, 1803.

Wishes to remain in Philadelphia some time longer, so will not prepare to return with Mr. Clark. Refers to invitations from Mrs. Tousard, Judge Smith, Mrs. Cadwalader and the Lenox family. Wishes she were going to the last-mentioned party, for "they are to sup at three in the morning." Is sorry Mary [Ridgely] was disappointed at not receiving her shoes. Will shop for "the front for her bonnet," and four yards of ribbon if she wants it. Pictures will soon be ready. Mason Wemyss is in town "more silent and decent" than formerly. Speaks of his five children. [Mr.] Prime still hates America but considers Delaware the "best of the States." He inquired for Mary. R[ichard] Smith is leaving for home soon. Thinks some of the family "behave barbarously to and about" Harry [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], May 10, 1803.

Had an unwelcome invitation to dine at Travis' with "a parcel of men . . . a disagreeable set." Had to decline a visit to Mrs. Gillaspy to avoid family disapproval. Alludes to "her sister Mrs. Tousard," the Hamilton family, Mrs. Powell, [Mr.] Prime, Mrs. Deponceau, Miss Breck, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Lea, Dick Smith and his father, Mrs. Howard and her uncle S. Chew, and Mrs. Sims and infant son Heath. Eliza Smith of Princeton is married to Mr. Pintard "late consul." Various acquaintances think she herself resembles her sister Mary, "English Willy Moore" and Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], May 18, 1803.

Is hurt and surprised that her mother thinks her desire to stay longer in Philadelphia indicates lack of affection and will return if she asks it. Reminds her, however, that she stayed at home for the past seven years, despite the effect of the climate on her health, and that she is just beginning to feel really well. Tells of Dr. [Wm.] Smith's death and burial. No women attended his funeral. [Samuel] White and [Mr.] Horsey are in town. Cannot read the name of the man Mary [Ridgely] thinks Mr. [Willard] Hall resembles. Does not believe her mother is as much alone as Mary says.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 22.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], May 25, 1803.

Is pleased with permission to stay, for she has only recently begun to really enjoy her visit. Is glad her mother is seeing more of her neighbors. Sends regards to Mrs. Warner and Mrs. Clayton. Messrs. [Samuel] White, Horsey and Johnson called. Speaks of Col. Cooke, Mr. B. R. Morgan, Mrs. Cadwalader, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Orso, the Rowans, S[ally] Wethered, Mrs. Tousard, [John] Dickinson and Mrs. Tilghman. Recently heard from Jane, whose husband [Jacob] Jones sails soon with Mr. Stewart, a son-in-law of Mrs. Batson formerly a lieutenant on the *Constellation.* Has recently had her "profile" cut. Thinks the one enclosed is very good, though the hat is clumsy. Mrs. Cadwalader's is excellent. Six cut are eleven pence, or drawn only, a cent. Speaks of Mary and Ellen Lyle, nieces of the Hamiltons, whose portraits have just been completed. Thinks the children were so "loaded with lace and necklaces" they look like women.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], June 1, 1803.

Writes hastily before preparing for a dinner at Nicklins'. [Mr.] Johnson of Dover and [Mr.] Rogers have called. Mentions profiles again. Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond has a fine English cheese to send at the first opportunity. Suggests that her mother return all Mrs. Cadwalader's novels in her possession to exchange for others.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, June 6, 1803.

Tells of a visit to Wilmington to see Mrs. [James A.] Bayard. Saw nothing odd in the latter's conduct except a preoccupation with religion. Fears she will "fix on Methodism" during a planned trip to Maryland. Called on S[ally] Banning, Miss [Mary] Vining and the Dickinsons. Saw the Wethered sisters, Dr. Latimer and Capt. [Samuel] White. Mentions Mrs. [Elizabeth] Miller's "ci-devant admirer Voreese." Thinks Mrs. [John] Travis would appreciate some small gift, for she was delighted with the cakes sent her daughter Nancy [Travis]. Doubts if she can get profiiles of all the family for some have not had them made. Tom Cadwalader's is very handsome. Believes Mr. Horsey praised her improved appearance too much. Dr. [Wm.] Smith left Mrs. [Samuel] B[lodgett] a full share of his estate, in trust. Is amazed at C[harles] Goldsborough's similarity to the Fidgelys. Mr. [Phineas] Bond thinks him like her father. He greatly admires S[ally] G[oldsborough].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, June 9, 1803.

Dr. [Wm.] Smith's estate was divided equally among his children: Becky's [Mrs. Samuel Blodgett] share in trust and "Willy's" [Mrs. Charles Goldsborough] to her three orphans. His son estimated its value between a hundred and a hundred fifty thousands pounds. Dr. Smith left mourning rings valued at $20.00 each to Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely, Mrs. [Phineas] Bond, Judge Smith, his own children, Bishop White, Mrs. Ennalls and others. Expects a picture of him for her mother. Believes Charles and Sally Goldsborough may marry. Mrs. Cadwalader and Tom [Cadwalader] are extremely friendly and thoughtful. Wm. Wemyss is married to Miss Kinsey of Burlington, and George Izard to Mrs. Shippen. He is her "third six-footer." Comments on the match. Attended a large party at Burds'. Speaks of Mrs. McKean, Mrs. Lea, Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Collins, "Miller, who married Anna Bass" and [Jacob] Jones, about to sail on the *Philadelphia.* Will read *Lorenzo de Medici.*

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], June 14, 1803.

Spent a pleasant day with the Hamiltons. Met two conceited and unpleasant Englishmen, friends of the Erskines, at Mrs. Cadwalader's. They described "old Mr. [Thomas] Erskine" and his wife. Has not yet seen [Jacob] Jones who sails on the *Philadelphia* about July 1st. Richard Smith has presented the Ridgelys with two engraved portraits of his father [Dr. Wm. Smith]. John Wemyss and his niece, Miss Thomas, "who is . . . as tall as I am" attended William's [Wemyss] wedding. Tom Cadwalader is recovering from a recent illness. The Tilghmans were very cordial when she called, and eager for news of Dover. Refers to a bouquet of jessamine and moss roses, and to social engagements involving Mrs. Lawrence and her daughter Lucy, Becky Cad[walader], Betsy Tilghman, Henny Chew and the Hamiltons. [Mr.] Lyle and Andrew Hamilton have not yet sailed.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], June 22, 1803.

Jane Jones is in town until her husband sails. Describes her daughter [Williamina Jones]. Jane brings much news "as usual," not all of it accurate. Alludes to various gifts and errands for the family. Regrets Abraham Ridgely's illness. Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond has finally consented to have her profile taken at Peale's "the first rainy day." Has heard of the marriage of Abraham Ellery to Miss Watmore, and Samuel Malcom to Gen'l Schuyler's daughter; also of Nancy Sards' engagement to Mr. Tucker, Sally Goldsborough's to Mr. Cox, C[harles] Goldsborough's to Miss Sprigg and Polly Wethered's to James Pearce. Mentions Mrs. Gibbs, her son and daughter Ruth [Gibbs], Dr. Thomas, Mrs. Ennalls, Mrs. Tousard, Mrs. Deponceau, Mrs. Collier, Mrs. Fisher, and marriages of Mrs. Alston and of G. Sykes.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.9cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, Del., June 26, 1803.

Arrived in Wilmington after an extremely hot and tiring trip, feeling as if her "backbone and shoulder blades . . . [were] almost through the skin." Reached Duck Creek last night, but did not get to New Castle until "2 Today." Saw Kitty . . . and Hetty Broom. Urges her mother to have a companion during her absence.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 31.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WM.] McKEE'S near Wilmington, Del., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Dover, June 27, 1803.

Wants Ann to remain in Wilmington a while. Finds taking personal charge of the house again is unexpectedly pleasant. Is paying and receiving more visits than usual. Reminds

Ann and Harry [Ridgely] to call on Miss [Mary] Vining. Speaks of Miss George, the Dickinsons and the McKees. Hopes Harry will avoid travelling in the heat of the day on his return trip.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], [Wilmington, Del.], June 28, 1803.

Has worried because her mother is alone, and will return as soon as possible. Begs her to get a companion. Had a delightful afternoon and evening at tea with Hetty Broom, followed by a walk to the Brandywine in the moonlight. The party sat on the bridge and sang while "Reynalds and Caldwell played a great many charming tunes on the Flute." Others present were the Misses Driver, Miss Hunn, Miss Thomson, Miss Oflin, Miss [Sally] Banning, Miss Huggins, Capt. [Samuel] White, James Broom of New Castle (believed engaged to Ann Driver), Mr. Crow, Harry [Ridgely] and young [Mr.] Driver.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 23.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," near Dover, from [MISS] SALLY ANN WETHERED, "Prospect Hill," Wilm[ington], Del., June 30, 1803.

She and her mother, with Kitty and Mathilda [Wethered], arrived safely after their trip from Dover. Ann [Ridgely] looks well and has many engagements. Hopes she will spend most of the summer in Wilmington. Will entertain her, with Maria Dickinson and Betsy Stockton, during the weekend.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, AT DR. [WM.] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, Del., from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY], Dover, June 30, 1803.

Cautions her daughter to join in moonlight rambles along the Brandywine or "any excusion in the heat of the day" only with her hostess' approval. Admires [Sally Banning]. Names seven recent or expected callers. Suffered from a puzzling illness following an insect bite, but has recovered. The Bassetts and Bayards are in Dover. Refers to Mrs. Sykes' young sons William and James [Sykes].

A. L. U. 3 pp. 16.5cm. x 20.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] ANN R[IDGELY], Wilmin[gton], Del., July 1, 1803.

Tells in detail of a ride around New Castle "till past 10 o'clock," a trip to the paper mill, teas, calls upon various friends, a dance she reluctantly attended, and other social activities. Feels quite proud of her handling of an embarrassing meeting with [Mr.] Shields, [with whom Henry Ridgely recently duelled]. He was so confused she found it easy to be casual. Has avoided seeing Jim [Dr. James] Tilton but supposes it will eventually be necessary. Gossips about Miss Johns, who flirts with . . . Rogers though engaged to Thomas Stockton. James [Broom], betrothed to Ann Driver, still grieves deeply over his deceased wife. Refers to Miss Macmullan, [Samuel] White, Ann and Hester Driver, J. M. Broom, S[ally] Banning, Hetty Broom, John Caldwell, [Mr.] Driver, N. C. Broom, Dr. Collsborough, Capt. Bennett, Mr. & Mrs. [C. A.] Rodney, Miss Maria Hunn, [Mr.] Gordon, Mary Vining, the Dickinson family, George Strawbridge and the Wethereds. Enquires about Mr. Horsey and [Willard] Hall. Is hurt by Willy's [Ridgely] failure to acknowledge a letter.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 21cm. x 24cm

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], July 3, 1803.

A letter from Ann [Ridgely], intimating that their mother considers "Willy's" absence proof of lack of affection and wishes her immediate return has made her wretched. But since Mrs. Ridgely herself said nothing of the kind and is not prone to "say one thing and wish another," she awaits a frank statement of her mother's feeling in the matter. Will return if asked to do so, but points out that she is always ill in the summer and fall in Kent [County], but is well in Philadelphia. Captain [Richard] Ayscough died during a voyage to India. Refers to Aunt [Mrs. Thos. Wm.] Moore, Mrs. [Ann] Sands and Jane [Jones] as his relatives and [Mr.] Seton as a passenger on his ship.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WM.] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, Del., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, July 5, 1803.

Is disappointed and somewhat worried at not hearing regularly once a week from the girls during their absence. Harry [Ridgely], though very busy, will probably come up soon to accompany Ann home. "There was a grand Turtle feast at Cook's on Monday last."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.5cm. x 20.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WM.] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, Del., from MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, July 8, 1803.

Reproves her daughter for encouraging "a male coquette." Refers to her embarrassing meeting with Mr. Shields. Comments acidly on those who parade "their sensibility." Hopes

Ann will "not be a stranger at Mr. [John] Dickinson's. His daughter Maria is s[ai]d to be a lovely girl." Speaks of Miss Mackmullan [sic], Mr. and Mrs. Read, Miss [Mary] Vining and the McKees. Is distressed at not hearing from "Willy" [Ridgely]. "I have expressed my disapprobation of your flirting around N[ew] Castle 'till 10 o'clock at night in a gay gig."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.9cm. x 24.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], July 8, 1803.

Is going to spend some time with Mrs. [John] Travis at "Rockwell." There is little illness in town. Was disappointed at the quiet Fourth of July. "The good fortune of T[homas] Rodney is amazing but the idea of . . . Bishop's being a judge much more so." Mrs. [John] Travis would appreciate copies of *Indian Philosopher* and *Five Happy Matches,* by Watts. Speaks of Mrs. Batson, Mrs. Pollard, the two Misses Gibbs, Susan Brinton and her sister Fanny . . . , now married, Maria Dickinson, E[liza] George, [Mr.] Rogers, and Betsy Fisher's mother and uncle.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilmin[gton], Del., July 10, [1803].

Spent a few days with the Wethered family. Reassures her mother about the ride near New Castle. Has been to tea or to call at various homes. Was escorted through Dr. [James] Tilton's house and garden. Saw some excellent bargains in linen and cotton stockings. Dislikes Lewen Wethered. Mentions Harry and Williamina [Ridgely], Richard A[y]scough, John Macmullan, Hetty Broom, the Misses Driver, the Stockton family, Mrs. Freeman, Susan Hamilton and her charming family, the Wethereds, Mr. [John] Dickinson and Mrs. Brooks.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 21cm. x 23.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WM.] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, Del., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, July 13, 1803.

Calls Ann severely to task for a thoughtless letter to her sister Williamina which might have brought her home at the season when she is subject to jaundice and "the bilious" [fever]. Is disturbed at a rumor of dysentery in Dover. Implies that Mary [Ridgely] is keeping house for Henry [Ridgely] until his marriage. He does not appear well. Wonders if [his courtship] is progressing smoothly. Orders a pair of satinet shoes "not very peaked at the toes, [and with] a pretty heel."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Germantown, [Penna.], July 13, 1803.

Is concerned over her mother's failure to hear from her regularly, for she has written every week. It will, however, be harder to get letters mailed while she is in the country. Most of the family remain in town, for there is no illness there. Williamina Jones "will be horridly dragged up by her mother." Jane and Jacob Jones have both had flattering profiles taken. Fanny Erskine, in England, appears "quite in high life . . . I take it into my head . . . [their friends] are very dissipated people." Fanny complains that English houses are dirty and admits her own, though complimented, would distress her mother. She tells of a revolting black dog his mistress habitually feeds from her own plate at the table. Williamina herself inquires about the Bayards, Mrs. Wilson and Mary Bassett. "Young Ingersol" has returned to Philadelphia after a shorter stay aboard than he had planned. Rumor has [Thos.] Bradford and Mrs. [Elizabeth] Miller engaged. "Brother Nicholas's [Ridgely] Elijah" is reported living in town.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 32.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], "Prospect Hill," Wilm[ingto]n, Del., July 17, 1803.

Hopes there is no dysentery in Dover and that the family remains well. Chronicles her busy social life. Mrs. [John] Dickinson's serious illness has prevented her visiting there. Dr. [James] Tilton pays her great attention; [Samuel] "White swears I have made a conquest of the old man, and shall shortly be mistress of the mansion." Miss Higgins is to marry Mr. Egly. John Hamilton's ship, the *Swanwick,* was struck by lightning while at anchor in Wilmington. Refers to Sally B[anning], Hetty Broom, Dr. [Wm.] McKee, the Bayards, the Wethereds, M[ary] Vining, [Mr.] Shields, Dr. Read and his wife's nieces the Misses Wilson, Mary Wynkoop, Eliza George, the beautiful Miss Brobson, and Betsy Macomb.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Germantown, [Penna.], July 17, 1803.

Is sorry she missed Captain Denny. Inquires about the report [Thos.] Bradford is to settle in Dover, which she does not think would please Mrs. [Elizabeth] Miller. "Mount Airy," the adjoining estate, has a veritable castle on it, still incomplete. Tells of a call upon the young mistress, Mme.

Tarescon, and her sister Mrs. Simmons of Washington. Describes a recent ride through the countryside. Promises to be careful to avoid exposure to sun, night air or contagion of any sort and warns that letters from the country may be delayed. Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond "seemed to think it wonderful that I could do such a thing" as cut and make undercloth-ing. Was not flattered until she recalled that her cousins relied upon their mother "to cut for them."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 28.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], July 19, 1803.

Philadelphia is still "quite healthy." Wishes she lived there. Is anxious about "poor Sally Fisher." Miss James is married to Mr. Reese, half-brother of Mrs. Finney. Mrs. Lowery Wistar often speaks of Mrs. Ridgely and "Aunt Fanny" [Moore]. Mrs. S. Smith of New York, a cousin, died recently. Would like to send home a copy of *Female Biography.* Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond is sending a gift of cheese, olives, Malmsey Madeira, and white and red Noyau, the last " a great prize." Needs more money. Encloses an itemized account of all expenditures since her arrival. Points out that even with her new ones she has only six dresses in addition to a few completely out of style.

A. L.S. [1 enclosure] 4 + 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WM.] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, July 20, 1803.

There is no cause for alarm [over dysentery] in Dover, for only one patient is still ill. Reports the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Truitt's daughter and their infant grandchild.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 23.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, July 22, 1803.

Sympathizes with the Truitts in their bereavement. Inquires for Mrs. Wilson, whose life has been a hard one. A box and letters are ready for Captain Denny to take. Found black gauze and velvet ribbon for Mary [Ridgely] but no light-colored embossed muslins or chintz. Wishes to have her own last season's wheat and corn sold. Soon goes to the country again, though Philadelphia is healthier this summer than for years past. The funeral of an elderly invalid, Mrs. Stedman, is the first in weeks. A neighbor, Mr. Neill, is "just such another kind young man" as James Harper. Gossips about Lady Georgiana Gordon's £6000 per year "pin money." Discusses her own finances.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, [Del.], July 24, [1803].

Tells of Mrs. [John] Dickinson's funeral. Continues to enjoy her visit. A picnic at Graving Banks, reached after a sail in the *Swanwick,* proved delightful. The guests were Miss [Mary] Bassett, Miss [Sally] Banning, Miss [Hetty] Broom, Miss [Sally] Brobson, Miss Wynkoop, Misses S[ally] and K[itty] Wethered, Miss Stockton, Miss Wilson, Arch., James and . . . Hamilton, Mr. [Samuel] White, John and George Strawbridge, John Lea, Daniel Polk and T[homas] Macomb. Also refers to S. [Loockerman], "the two Mr. Brooms," Miss Hunn and Major Claiborn and Mrs. Sam Wethered. Inquires for Mrs. Clayton. Pities the Truitts.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 21cm. x 23.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WM.] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, [Del.], from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, July 25, 1803.

Objects to any of her daughters travelling by stage unaccompanied by a brother or "some good friend." Suggests that Dr. [Wm.] McKee or Mr. Broom might bring Ann [Ridgely] down. Mentions Dr. [Abraham] Ridgely and his family. Hopes Ann will accept Mr. [John] Dickinson's invitation to visit while she is in Wilmington and that some of her friends will accept her hospitality after she returns home.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.9cm. x 24.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, [Del.], July 26, [1803].

Tells of several engagements. Has purchased cotton stockings that appear to be a bargain. Asks for her black veil and the black lace apron promised her to make a shawl, since both are fashionable. Wants, but cannot afford, "many things which to appear genteel are necessary."

A. N. S. 1 p. 20.6cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], "Rockwell," [near Philadelphia], July 30, 1803.

Worries about getting the box containing cheese started on its way to Dover. Summarizes a letter from Ann who is enjoying her visit in Wilmington. Dr. [Jas.] Tilton, as usual, is making a great fuss over her. Thinks little [Fanny] Erskine an exceptionally attractive and well-disciplined child. Discusses a letter from Jane Jones who writes of business, [Jacob] Jones' departure, [her sister], Mrs. [Ann] Sands, and her mother's distress over her [half-] brother's [Richard

Ayscough] reported death. Williamina herself has made several fashionable caps, copying English and French models. Speaks of various members of the family and of "Henney," a servant. She and Mrs. Cadwalader entertain themselves by "reading novels, walking and working."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, [Del.], July 29-31, [1803].

A swollen face and the difficulty of collecting her belongings from the several homes where she has stayed prevented her returning with [Samuel] White and [Thomas] Macomb. Plans to hear Bishop Claggett, the first time in four years she has "heard a sermon from one of our own Clergy." Was too ill to attend a party at the paper mill. On Sunday adds a note reporting she has attended three church serves and read an excellent sermon since Friday. Mrs. Hendrickson is dead. Refers to Hetty Broom, Betsy Stockton, Betsy Wilson, Mary Bassett, Mrs. [Margaret] Barker, Mrs. Sam. Wethered, [Mr.] Shields, Miss Hunn, Miss Macmullan, [Mr.] Voreese and Mary Wynkoop.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.6cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WM.] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, Del., from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], July 31, 1803.

Is sending several pieces of lace which can be dyed black. Regrets that black lace veils are stylish "as I fear they will injure the skin very much." Is grieved at Mrs. [John] Dickinson's death, though she had been ill so long. Offers sympathy to her family. Speaks of the death of "our neighbor James Barry" who had come to this country "a young Lord" and whose whole conduct "had been much superior to that generally observed among people of his station." Refers to [Thos.] McCombe.

A. L. [S. inferred] 2 pp. 12.4cm. x 20cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WM.] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, Del., from MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 5, 1803.

"I am amazed" at the story that "you took great liberties with Dr. [James] T[ilton] and recommended several alterations about his house with as great ease and composure as if you expected to be really mistress of the mansion and that [Capt. White] began to think you had absolutely determined, if possible, to make a conquest of your old friend." Is glad "you seem pleased yourself with having kept one Sabath [sic.] in a proper manner." Hopes she will continue the practice.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.9cm. x 24.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Del., Aug. 6, 1803.

Tells of informal social gatherings in Wilmington, and of an excellent sermon very badly delivered by [Rev. Mr.] Price. Liked [Mr.] Vorheese, who is "head over heels in love with Maria Hun[n]." Has been with the McKee and Bayard families, and has lately seen [Mr.] Caldwell, [Mr.] Stoops, Mr. [Thos.] Macomb, Sally [Banning], Mr. Broom, Col. [Nehemiah] Tilton, Mr. Wethered and Hetty [Broom].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 23.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, "Rockwell," [Penna.], Aug. 7, 1803.

Fears her letter of [July 30] miscarried. "Henny" Sims has an infant daughter, Henrietta. Asks Mary [Ridgely] to copy "the verses addressed by Mrs. [John] Vining to her son, C. R. V[ining]" for Mrs. Gillaspy. Also refers to "the Gipsey to Antonia" from *The Monk,* and to *The Indian Philosopher.* Miss Rush is reported engaged to Captain Manners, relative of the Duke of Rutland, in Canada. "Molly Dickinson and Fox are to be married in October."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Philad[elphia], Aug. 8, 1803.

Williamina [Ridgely's] health, spirits and appearance are much improved, though any emotional disturbance still "gives a bilious cast to her complexion." Finds their accounts agree. Now has Richardson's bill. "I wish Tom [Cadwalader] were as near married as Harry [Ridgely] is."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], "Rockwell," [Penna.], Aug. 11, 1803.

Reassures her mother regarding reports of yellow fever and dysentery at Philadelphia. Travellers from New York, where an epidemic is in progress, are not allowed to enter the city. Has been out in the country for some weeks, so cannot send Mary's [Ridgely] box. Repeats English news from Mrs. [David] Erskine who refers to her son Tom [Erskine], an unborn child, the Duchess of Devonshire and her monstrously fat daughter Lady Harriett, "Mrs. General Johnson" sister of the late Mrs. Hamilton, and her [own] husband's maiden aunt. She also describes the "opera dancers. . . . it seems they have very short petticoats and in jumping the bindings of them are plainly seen, but they wear pantaloons." "Willy" corrects her statement regarding Captain Manners, who is not a brother of the Duke of Rutland. Asks for news of "the wedding."

A. L. U. 4 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], "Prospect Hill," Wil[mington, Del.], Aug. 12, 1803.

Was pleased to see her "friend and favorite, Captain [Samuel] White," but disappointed that he brought no letters from home. "Went to [the] Brandywine to bathe" and found the water "delightful." Is very fond of Sally [Banning]. Mentions the McKee, Wethered and Bayard families, Miss Ward, Dr. Read, the Misses Wilson, T[homas) Macomb, George Strawbridge, [Mr.] Vorheese and Hester Driver. Does not like her "profile" [silhouette] though admitting "tis the image of me." Has received those of several friends. Reluctantly asks for more money. She has borrowed $10.00 and still needs additional articles. Wants her "large old gold ring" sent. Wishes she had brought her blue satin dress to be made. Is about to iron her silk stockings.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, "Rockwell," [Penna.], Aug. 14, 1803.

Repeats much of her letter of August 11, fearing it may miscarry. Does not know how to send shoes to Mary and Ann [Ridgely]. Wishes "Old Mr. Smith (Oswald)" would draw a picture for her as he did for Miss [Rebecca] Bond. Thinks *Lady Julie Mandeville* "beautiful." Hears Maria Dickinson has been confined to bed since her mother's death. Asks for the recipes for gingerbread and potato cakes.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

[MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Philadelphia], from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], Aug. 15, 1803.

Recounts a strange experience with an aged man who begged at her door that morning. When told of George's [Ridgely] disappearance at sea three years previous, he had spontaneously offered a brief but amazingly beautiful and effective prayer for his safe return, then "bowed and went off." Confesses herself still "happy from it."

A. Df. U. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WM.] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, Del., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 15, 1803.

Censures Ann for "imprudence in continuing in the bath at Brandywine so long as you did," for "thoughtless and giddy conduct," and for extravagance is "disposing of forty dollars," some of it borrowed, since her arrival in Wilmington. Fears she may be ill. Henry [Ridgely] will come for her soon.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, near Wilmington, [Del.], from [MRS. ANN RIGELY, Dover], Aug. 17, 1803.

While Harry [Ridgely] is preparing to start for Wilmington to bring Ann home, writes of her own tendency to worry about her children, and her hope that her daughter will visit more frequently in the future. Found during this absence that she could adjust herself well to being alone. Refers to Mrs. Wilson, the latter's daughter and son-in-law, and her own and Ann's Wilmington friends. Supposes "shoes, stockings, muslin and patterns for Chintz for a Gowne will probably come to ten dollars or more."

A. L. U. 2 pp. 12.3cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Aug. 17, 1803.

Has been in town for several days having shoes made for Mary [Ridgely]. Does not expect to be in again, though the "Town was never more healthy." Mrs. Cadwalader was amazed to learn that she knew how to make a "ground rice" pudding according to the old "Moore Hall" recipe. Some of the family think Sally Goldsborough and her cousin [Charles Goldsborough] will eventually marry. Fears Dr. [James] Sykes will leave the city before she can see him.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Del., Aug. 21, 1803.

Was deeply hurt by her mother's recent letter charging her with "thoughtless, giddy conduct." Has not been even "gay," though she has enjoyed seeing her friends. Is extremely fond of Sally [Banning] and convinced of her devotion to Henry [Ridgely], for whom she could choose no more suitable bride. Spent a delightful week with the Bayards. Thinks Mr. [James A.] Bayard even more charming at home than in public. Visited the paper mill. Has seen Mary Bassett, Ann Ward, Miss Hun[n], Hetty Broom, Mrs. Strawbridge, the Misses

Evans, Miss Stockton, [Samuel] White, Mr. J. Strawbridge, the Wethereds, Mrs. S[amuel] W[ethered], George Strawbridge, Eliza George, Maria Dickinson, Susan Hamilton, Miss [Mary] Vining, and [Rev.] Mr. Collins. Finally obtained black chintz for Mrs. Ridgely and has a beautiful dove-colored silk for Mary [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.6cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], "Rockwell," [Penna.], Aug. 22, 1803.

Believes Sally Goldsborough will marry her cousin. Comments upon both. Visited Mr. and Mrs. Smith at "Roxborough." Thinks that estate more attractive than "the Woodlands." Hopes to be able to have shoes for her sisters delivered. The [yellow] fever outbreak is said to be very serious in New York, but has not appeared in Philadelphia. Discusses the incident of the aged beggar's prayer, sale of her grain, long rides and walks she is enjoying, and her need for additional money. Has heard Mary Ann Goldsborough is to marry Dr. Thomas.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], "Rockwell," [Penna.], Aug. 29, 1803.

Richard Smith is engaged to Molly Lewis, a sister of Mrs. Higbee. Mentions Dr. [Wm.] McKee, "poor Mrs. Wilson" and her daughter Betsy . . . , now married, Eliza Smith, Nancy Clymer, Sally and C[harles] Goldsborough, Judge Smith, Maria Dickinson, Dr. [James] Sykes, James Clayton and his mother, her Philadelphia relatives, and her own family. Describes the double oleander and Cape jassamine blossoms. A brother of [Napoleon] Buonaparte is in Baltimore. At New York this summer yellow fever nearly always proves fatal; the city is now almost deserted.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, "Rockwell," [Penna.], Sept. 4, 1803.

Tells of an accident in which Miss [Becky] Bond was painfully but not dangerously hurt. Remarks on her similarity to "our Mary" [Ridgely]. The day after the accident, though "Willy" and Mrs. Travis were both there, Miss Bond insisted upon cutting out clothing for a baby born prematurely to "the Dutch woman" and refused to rest before all had retired. Little Betsy Travis reminds her forcibly of "that poor babe" Sally Ann Nixon. Maria Smith appears to be dying "in a decay" though [Dr.] "Rush has bled her and ordered her to be kept very low." Eliza Smith has rejected Jack Rush's suit.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], "Rockwell," [Penna.], Sept. 11, 1803.

Miss [Becky] Bond is recovering from her accident. Gossips about [Jerome] Buonaparte, Marquis Yrugo and his father-in-law [Thos. McKean], Mr. Reinholdt, Miss Keene and the Lenox family. Mrs. Lenox is a daughter of Surveyor-General Lukins. Maria Smith is improving under the care of Dr. Rush who orders her kept in bed, neither talking nor seeing company, to be frequently bled and blistered, and to live on fruit, vegetables and "a morsel of tongue or ham." Comments that she herself would die of the treatment, let alone the illness. "Young Mrs. Chew" educates her own children, "even to teaching the boys Latin." Mrs. Siddons is reported retiring from the stage following the death of her lovely young daughter. Remarks "how merry and sweet-tempered [Mrs. Phineas Bond] is and what fatigue she can bear." Tells of household activities. Mentions Mrs. Mifflin, Nancy Travis, Mrs. Philips, Mrs. Tilghman, Mrs. Ralston, Andrew Hamilton and Mr. Lyle.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Germantown, [Penna.], Sept. 18, 1803.

Though some cases of yellow fever have appeared in Philadelphia, all were contracted in or near Water Street. Cornelius Yard has just died of the disease after nine days' illness. Promises to take no risks whatever. Refers to the recent death of "poor Mrs. Wilds," mentioning "her old father" and Polly Wilds. Asks Ann or Mary [Ridgely] to preserve some damson plums or peaches for her to give Aunt Bond. Her mother's friend Betsy Miller, some years a widow, lives near Germantown. Remarks that [Willard] Hall is mentioned often in letters from home. He "must be a vast favorite."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Germantown, [Penna.], Sept. 25, 1803.

Explains the difficulty in sending or receiving mail since people are avoiding Philadelphia. Wishes her preserves put in "a stone jar" since tumblers sometimes break in transit.

Usually walks or rides morning and evening. Enjoyed *Romance of the Forest* but preferred *Udolpho*. *The Monthly Magazine* indicates Charlotte Smith "changes her politics every month." Mentions the Hamiltons, the late Cornelius Yard and "his Aunt Stevens," Mrs. Wignell's infant daughter, Mr. Many, Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Warner, and Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. [John] Travis grumbles about the difficulty of keeping her wig in place.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Germantown, [Penna.], Sept. 28, 1803.

The fever is worse in Philadelphia, but all the Ridgelys' friends are in the country, and well. Speaks of various members of the family, Mrs. Gillespy and her aunt Miss Geddis, Mrs. Phillips, and Mrs. Smith. Wishes Mrs. [James] Fisher had taken her mother on her trip to Lancaster. Comments on T[homas] Rodney's appointment "to the Natchez," adding; "This is the time to provide for poor Mrs. Wilson if he ever means to do it."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Germantown, [Penna.], Oct. 6, 1803.

She and Mrs. Travis accompanied Mr. [John] Travis to "the blue bell [inn] . . . a mile this side of Darby" [Penna.] when he started for Baltimore and plan to meet him there on his return. "Thirty pages of letters" have arrived from England telling of Mrs. [David] Erskine's activities. Quotes from them descriptions of an interesting ruin and of "a grand party given by the Countess of Cork." Root "of the broad dock, cut fine and put in vinegar" seems an effective remedy for ringworm, from which the Travis children are suffering. Hopes she does not contract it and so have to refuse an anticipated invitation to a concert. "Fox and M[olly] Dickinson are to be married tomorrow."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Germantown, [Penna.], Oct. 13, 1803.

Mr. [John] Travis died suddenly [apparently from a heart condition] while in Baltimore. Understands his widow's inconsolable grief, for he was a man of high character and a favorite everywhere. Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond has asked her to stay with Mrs. Travis for a time. Tom Cad[walader] was "at Trenton at Miss [Molly] Dickinson's wedding" when the news came. Mr. Travis had shown some indications of poor health, but nothing to warn the family of his danger. The fever is abating in Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Germantown, [Penna.], Oct. 20, 1803.

Mrs. [John] Travis is recovering very slowly from the shock of her husband's death. Speaks of her children, her mother [Mrs. Phineas Bond], Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader, Dr. Bensel, Mr. Bond, Mrs. Waddington, and "old Mr. and Mrs. Chew." Friends and neighbors are all most sympathetic, for everyone who knew Mr. Travis liked him. Describes her [own] mourning gown. Gives her mother authority to dispose of her grain as she thinks wise. Old Mrs. Hamilton is dead.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, "Somerville," [Del.], Oct. 23, 1803.

Inquires if the rumor can possibly be true that Mrs. Ridgely will move into Dover to occupy "the House Dr. Ham lives in." If it is, he asks an option on the farm, but strongly advises against the step, for "I fear you will embitter your life irreparably."

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.6cm. x 21cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Germantown, [Penna.], Oct. 28, 1803.

Mrs. Travis is improving, though still weak and ill. The Travis children are still suffering from ringworm. Mr. Gibbs of New Port [R. I.] is dead. Encloses a sample of Ann Travis' writing; the selection, *Censoriousness Reproved* was her own choice. Fanny [Erskine] is at Tunbridge, [England] and will soon return to Boswell Court. She has seen Mrs. [Sturge] Moore, whose daughter will be sent to her grandmother in Brooklyn at the mother's death. "Mrs. Judge Smith," during a recent call, told of her travels and brought news of her daughter Maria [Smith], Mrs. West of Baltimore, "poor Mrs. Stuart," and a Mrs. Young, née Ridgely.

A. L. S. [1 enclosure] 3 pp. 20.6cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Germantown, [Penna.], Nov. 1, 1803.

Was amazed to hear of her mother's plan to move into town. Warmly advises against it, pointing out the advantages of the farm in convenience, healthfulness and generous supply of provisions. Does not think Mary's [Ridgely] "whim" should be indulged, and is sure Mrs. Ridgely would find Dover "very disagreeable." Is grieved at her "suspicions respecting the interested views of brother Nicholas." Points to numerous "proofs of his tenderness" which convince her he has always "behaved to you as he would have done to his own mother." Mrs. Travis continues to improve. Mentions Mrs. Cadwalader, Aunt Bond and Mrs. [David] Erskine.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Germantown, [Penna.], Nov. 13, 1803.

Discusses the sale of some of her farm produce, and gifts of food to be sent to Philadelphia. Hopes to return to Philadelphia soon. Mrs. [John] Travis and the children are still improving. Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond promises some nutmeg and mace. Has purchased 2 pounds of saltpetre at 4 shillings 6 pence. Will get the lace, but needs none for herself. Does want a muff, so will require more money. Wishes to remain a little longer because of Mrs. Travis' condition, among other reasons. Mrs. Sturge Moore is dead. Her daughter is to be sent to her grandmother [Mrs. Thos. Wm. Moore] in Brooklyn "but I hope as you do that heaven in mercy will prevent it." Jane [Mrs. Jacob Jones] expects another child. Her [half-] brother Richard [Ayscough] died of yellow fever. Mrs. McDavid and Mr. Currie are also dead. Mentions [Ann] Sands, Mrs. [Rachel] Campbell, William Moore and their respective children.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], Nov. 16, 1803.

Has ordered the medicines but fears the other errands cannot be completed in time to send the articles by [Mr.] Wootten. Does not think the reason her mother gives for moving into town is valid and hopes she will reconsider. Mentions Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader, Mrs. [Phineas] Bond and Mrs. [John] Travis and her children. Refers to Mrs. Cadwalader's "house in Front St." The cider and [preserved] peaches arrived safely.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Nov. 23, 1803.

Has found no means of sending her purchases home. Is sorry for "poor James" [apparently a Negro child], who is so often ill. Mrs. Travis remains wretched. Has received the cider, peaches and ham from Dover. Added tapioca and Elixir

Proprietatis to the list at the pharmacist's shop. Maria Smith has recovered completely. "Old Dr. [John] Redman" sends his love to Mrs. Ridgely, recalling youthful days at "Moore Hall." Hetty Cox, "the grandchild of old Sitgreaves," is to marry John Markoe whom she prefers to elderly Harry Wickoff.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Nov. 27, 1803.

Has heard through Mrs. Gillaspy of Harry's [Ridgely] wedding. Asks a detailed account of it and sends her love to him and Sally [Banning]. Wishes to stay a while longer with Mrs. [John] Travis, who will otherwise be alone too often. Miss [Becky] Bond tells of "some cheap & handsome silk stockings and gloves." Believes the stockings have open clocks. Hopes the package can soon be sent.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND], Philadelphia, Dec. 6, 1803.

Asks Mrs. Ridgely's consent for "Willy" [Ridgely] to remain with Mrs. [John] Travis until the latter is better reconciled to her husband's death.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Dec. 6, 1803.

Comments on the extremely private character of her brother's wedding. Is anxious to stay with Mrs. [John] Travis, but will return "if you insist." Mentions several errands still to be done before she comes back to Dover. "Mrs. Judge Smith" has recovered from a brief illness.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Dec. 8, 1803.

Has arranged lodgings for Harry [Ridgely] and his bride. Again explains why she wishes to remain with Mrs. Travis. Richard Willing, "very handsome & good-natured but very dissipated" is to marry Eliza More, who is "young and rich."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 20.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Philadelphia, Dec. 11, 1803:

Sends walnuts, Illinois nuts, capers, spice, souchong tea, cayenne peppers, curling tongs, saltpetre, some seeds as a gift from Mrs. [Willimina] Cadwalader, "mould candles" which she at first believed it impossible to find, the keg of medicines, raisins, almonds, "Butter Biscuit," shoes for Mary [Ridgely] and peppermint comfits for [slave child] James. Hopes Harry [Ridgely] likes the quarters she engaged for she hunted a considerable time before choosing. Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett wants to get her eldest son into the British Navy. Judge Yates says she is "much altered for the better." Purchased a black bearskin muff and a becoming black plush hat trimmed with feathers, each ten dollars.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], Dec. 12, [1803].

Hopes Mary [Ridgely] likes her shoes. Mentions flower seeds for Mrs. Ridgely and a potted wall flower for Mary. Will send a box containing an oleander and a "fine Rose Gerenium" in the spring. Appreciates a gift of cider and ham. Is having a barrel of the "best small Beer" sent down. Suggests that some of it be bottled if it proves good. Refers to [her granddaughter's] third birthday.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], Dec. 12, 1803.

Comments on the cost and quality of the provisions previously referred to. Her aunt is in addition sending two oyster pots and twelve quarters of citron. Knew the Rowans could not conveniently accommodate Harry [Ridgely and his bride]. Encloses a receipted bill for medicines bought from Gillaspy and Strong.

A. L. S. [1 enclosure] 3 pp. + 1 20cm. v 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, Dec. 14, 1803.

Her last letter from home has made "Willy" [Ridgely] as wretched as did one from Ann [Ridgely] during the summer. Withdraws the request for her to stay if Mrs. Ridgely is not really willing. Comments on "Willy's" unusual devotion to her mother. Alludes to Henry's [Ridgely] recent marriage, and to her own mother and sister.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], Dec. 14, 1803.

Is amazed and hurt that her mother could "believe any cruel story relating to a subject which has caused me so much pain." Denies that she has seen "that person" in more than two years or ever wishes to again. Affirms her complete loyalty to her mother. Admits her long-standing dislike of Dover, but insists it is only because of its effect upon her health. Notes that she has never failed to write weekly and sometimes oftener. Mrs. [John] Travis continues to improve.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], Dec. 21, 1803.

Thanks her mother for consenting to her remaining in the city for she is convinced her widowed cousin still needs her. Harry and Sally [Ridgely] arrived safely. Most of the relatives have already called upon them. Sally, whom the Bonds consider "a delicate, interesting little girl," is a favorite everywhere.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], Dec. 24, 1803.

Sally [Ridgely] is greatly admired by all Henry's relatives. Sends each of her sisters an "English nightcap" suitable for wear at any time and very becoming. Speaks of the Travis children, who want to accompany her home. Repeats her denial of a rumor about her, explaining a circumstance that might have given rise to it. Mentions Dr. Horsey, Mrs. [Elizabeth] Miller, Mrs. Caldwell, [Mr.] Bradford, Peter Robinson and members of the family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Dec. 28, 1803.

Tells of Henry's and Sally's [Ridgely] social activities. With Miss [Becky] Bond's help Sally has selected a beautiful carpet, candlesticks and plate. Mrs. Travis remains depressed and wretched. Sends *Interesting Memoirs,* Gisborne's *Female Duties,* and a collection of poems. Has a needle case and an "expense box" both of silver and about to be filled with "scented cotton," as Christmas gifts for her sisters. Refers to Mary Wynkoop, her relative Mrs. Otto, née Tod, and Dr. Otto. Miss Tilghman is to spend two years in France after her forthcoming marriage. Speaks of Judge Smith's family and the Misses Hamilton.

[A note on the cover, in Nicholas Ridgely's hand, reports that Harry Ridgely is safely home and will be out to the farm the following day, also that a box for Mrs. Ridgely is at Little Creek Landing.]

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Philad[elphia], Dec. 29, 1803.

Expects Dr. [Wm.] Smith's picture from Salter's. Charles Smith is sending the two volumes of his father's sermons now printed and promises the others when they appear. Sally Ridgely was cordially received in Philadelphia and appears to have enjoyed her stay. She will visit her mother [Mrs. Wm. McKee] on the way home. Has been unable to obtain the lace Mrs. Ridgely ordered. Mentions Dr. Horsey, Mrs. Mifflin, "poor old Mrs. Emlen," and the members of her own family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, Dec. 30, 1803.

Thought Sally [Ridgely] most attractive and in every way a fitting bride for Harry [Ridgely] whom the family consider an outstanding young man. Remarks that the young couple look very much alike. Believes it possible that Williamina's [Ridgely] remaining in Philadelphia through the winter may "be a means of saving Mamma's [Mrs. Phineas Bond] life," for she now gets proper rest. Mrs. [John] Travis does not make such demands on her cousin as she did upon her mother. Inquires about a friend of Harry's said to be "an admirer of Mary's [Ridgely]." Hopes Mrs. Ridgely and the girls will soon come up.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 23.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Phila[delphia], Jan. 1, 1804.

Is relieved to learn her mother is better. Begs her not to let herself be disturbed by dreams, and assures her her own health is so improved that friends comment upon it. Though she is fond of Delaware, she would much prefer to live in Pennsylvania. The entire family admired Sally [Ridgely]. Alludes to "the D[octo]r" [Abraham Ridgely?] and his whims, which she attributes to his continued poor health. Betsy Tilghman is to be married next week. Has heard "Mr. Wynkoop had died in the hospital." Mentions the Bonds, Mrs. Cadwalader, Mrs. Mifflin, the Hamiltons, Rowans and Chews, Sally Buley and Mrs. Sims. Pities "that poor unfortunate girl" Betsy Alston.

A. L. U. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Jan. 3, 1804.

Continues in much better health and knows her appearance has improved a great deal. Refers to her brother Harry and his bride. Hopes "poor Mrs. Many" has been released from her suffering. Asks that someone other than Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader be appointed to transact her mother's bank business, "as very few ladies appear at such places." Captain Manners and Miss Rush are married. Discusses articles recently sent to Dover. [Mr.] Chauncey and Molly Wilson are reported engaged. Does not care for the theatre, so has not attended this season. Speaks briefly of the family, and of Mrs. Malcom, Mr. and Mrs. [Jas. A.] Bayard, Dr. Horsey, Jane [Jones] and the Rowans.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philad[elphia], Jan. 10, 1804.

Tells of calls recently made, of several British dinner guests at the Bonds', of Ann Stewart's engagement to Philip Church, and of an excellent profile of Harry [Ridgely] she plans to have framed. Refers to Miss Clymer, the Misses Smith, Mary Wynkoop, Mrs. [J. A.] Bayard, Mary Bassett, Mrs. Fullerton, Mrs. Gillaspy, Mr. Guy [Grey?] "Solicitor-General from Upper Canada," Molly Biddle, Mr. Short, a former consul, Dr. Fothergill, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. [John] Travis and Becky Hamilton.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.9cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], Jan. 12, 1804.

Worries about Mrs. Ridgely's poor health. Refers to the death of Sally's [Ridgely?] aunt. Is glad Betsy Alston is to live with Henry's [Ridgely] family. Discusses finances. Plans to send Cowper's *Works*. Speaks of Mary Wynkoop, Mrs. Otto, "Kitty Otto (now Mrs. Ewing)" of Trenton and her two sons, and Betsy Tilghman's approaching marriage. Comments acidly on Harry Wikoff's rumored courtship of Kitty Chew.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Jan. 24, 1804.

Continues a discussion of articles recently sent to Dover, and the appointment of someone to transact the bank business. Quotes further favorable comments about Sally [Ridgely]. Mentions Betsy Tilghman's wedding. A cousin of Miss

Tilghman, Mary Wilcocks, is engaged to Charles Ingersol. A letter from Fanny [Erskine] describes the Queen of England, "taking large quantities of snuff and . . . meanly dressed," eating gingerbread at a review.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Jan. 31, 1804.

Dr. [Charles] Nisbett of Carlisle is dead. Has met John Moore, son of Lambert. His father, though nearly eighty, is well. He reported the birth of another child to Mrs. [Jacob] Jones and the death of one of Mrs. Sands' younger sons. She writes of Mrs. Sims' sister, Miss Heath. Complains of the long-continued bad weather. Miss Moore and Mr. Willing are to be married. Sees little of the Hamilton family of late. Mrs. [John] Travis does not improve.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 6, 1804.

Alludes to Betsy McDowell's sad story. John Markoe and Hetty Cox, and Mr. Binney and another Miss Cox "sister of Mrs. John Redman Cox" are to be married. Mrs. Phillips made a theatrical entrance after the marriage of B[etsy] T[ilghman]. She is as handsome and "full of affectation" as ever. " . . . she has been keeping grief for four years and that is certainly too long for such a poor devil as she lost." Saw Col. Burr, who was agreeable but "very like an old monkey." Mrs. Capron's school is thriving. Mrs. [John] Travis seems more wretched than before. Refers to a shipment of beer, and some porter and seeds to be sent later.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 9, 1804.

Complains of heavy snows which made the walking bad. Mrs. [Jacob] Jones' son is Richard Ayscough Jones. Has seen "poor Peggy O'Brien" but once. Esther McDowell has been proven innocent. Has heard that Washington Finney is dead. Inquires about "French McMullan's match."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, [Del.], Feb. 10, 1804.

Arrived late last evening [Friday], after a pleasant trip, but was annoyed to find she could not mail a letter to Dover before Wednesday. Due to bad roads she did not reach Blackbird [c. 18 miles] until noon, but got to Wilmington [c. 27 miles beyond] between eight and nine in the evening. Refused Mr. [Kensey] Johns' invitation to spend the night at New Castle and is now very much at home at Mrs. [Jas. A.] Bayard's in Wilmington. Richard [Bayard] is at school in Baltimore and Caroline, in Philadelphia; James [Jr.] and Elizabeth are at home. Plans to go to the city in a few days. Will see Dr. [Wm.] McKee's family and Miss [Mary] Vining before leaving. Met James Broom and Outerbridge Horsey, the latter more "captivating" than usual, at the Red Lion. Mrs. Cook has been ill since the birth of her daughter Elizabeth. "Old Mrs. Chew" has recovered from a liver complaint. Richard Smith called while in Wilmington on his way home from Dover. Mentions Charity [Alford], Mrs. Maxwell, and Sally [Mrs. H. M. Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 15, 1804.

Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader's house is on Chestnut St., just above 7th. Repeats the current gossip concerning a duel between Mr. Rutledge and Dr. Senter, in which the latter was fatally wounded. Refers to the Bonds, Nancy Travis and Mrs. Tousard.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 22, 1804.

Mrs. Cadwalader is settled in her new house on Chestnut St. and "the Market Street one" is empty. Hears that Mrs. [Elizabeth] Miller has been bled thirteen times for pleurisy. A ball is planned "in memory of Washington." Mentions the Hamiltons, Nancy [Travis], Mrs. George Fox, and Mrs. Lowery Wistar. Asks for seeds or roots of the dwarf locust, cinnamon rose, passion flower, and grass pinks for Mrs. A. I. Miller.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], Feb. 29, 1804.

Recently saw "Dick McCall, King, Roper and Reinholdt, . . . Mr. and Mrs. Fox, Phil[emon] Dickinson, Mr. Meredith, [and] Mr. and Mrs. Read." Mrs. Read has grown very unattractive. Mrs. [Elizabeth] Miller had been bled but once, and "blistered" once. She is better. Refers to Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond, the Misses Gibson, and Mrs. Warner [of Dover]. Promises some recent English newspapers.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], Mar. 5, 1804.

Fears some seed will not reach Dover in time, for she can find no transportation. Is uneasy at hearing her mother has not been well. Thomas White and Maria Heath are engaged. Abbey [Willing] and Dick Peters are married. Mrs. Cadwalader is worried by lack of news from England. Speaks of C[harles] Ingersol and "his intended."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], Mar. 8, 1804.

Continues uneasy over receiving no mail from home. Mrs. [David] Erskine has another daughter, Ann. Mrs. Cadwalader likes her new house. Speaks of Mrs. Carrol, whose beauty is marred by "a very crying, fretful look," Mr. and Mrs. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. Redman, the Bonds, Miss Heath, [Mr.] King, [Mr.] Roper, Charles Edward Smith (infant of Charles Smith), Richard Smith, Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett, Mr. Sands, now on his way home from Washington, Mrs. Warner, Judge Smith, the Gibson family and "old Dr. [John] Redman and his wife." Is enjoying the five volume novel *Home*, by Dr. Cullen's daughter. A character reminds her of her own sister Ann [Ridgely]. Thinks Betsy Travis "the flower of the flock," though Williamina Travis is also attractive.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA[R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Mar. 14, 1804.

Is greatly worried over the news that her mother is ill with a cold, and will return home unless she hears soon of her recovery. Supposes, however, that she is not seriously ill since Mary [Ridgely] plans to stay at Henry's [Ridgely] house while he and Sally visit Wilmington.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], Mar. 20, 1804.

Explains her plans for returning home. Promises not to "stir without proper company." Is relieved to learn her mother is better. Plans to bring Patty Rowan with her. Charles and Sally Goldsborough and Dr. Thomas, who married Mary Ann Goldsborough, are in town. Recently saw a whale which had been been captured in the Delaware River near Reedy Island, and expects before she leaves town to see an old, tame lion. Jacob Jones is a captive in Algiers, but

English officials to whom Mr. [Phineas] Bond and others have appealed on behalf of the entire crew of the *Philadelphia* report they are not being abused. Fanny and Williamina Travis are ill.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], Mar. 21, 1804.

Will return with Mr. [Wm. H.] Wells when he comes. Is both distressed and hurt because she has received no news, and begs for a report on her mother's progress. Still thinks it peculiar that Mary and Henry [Ridgely] are away if their mother is seriously ill. Asks if it will be convenient for Patty Rowan to visit at this time.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], April 2, [1804].

Expresses her appreciation of Williamina [Ridgely's] kindness in staying with Betsy [Travis] at a time when her company was so greatly needed. The whole family regrets her departure and hopes she will soon come again. Invites Mrs. Ridgely and her daughters to visit. Unless there is [an epidemic of yellow] fever she plans to remain in town all summer.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Phila[delphia], April 16, 1804.

Wishes Mrs. Ridgely to "witness the [originally] enclosed Letter of Attorney" or make other arrangements enabling someone else to draw her bank dividends. Mrs. Cadwalader herself cannot conveniently go for those due now. She is, moreover, seriously considering going to England very soon. Asks her aunt not to mention the proposed trip as it is still undecided.

A. L. S. 1 p. 17.5cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER], Philad[elphia], May 23 [1804].

Sympathizes with Mary's [Ridgely] illness and invites her to come to Philadelphia during her convalescence, for "the gloom that surrounds me" would not disturb her before she was well enough to enjoy other company. Would gladly exchange a physicial illness for "the anguish I endure" [over her son's marriage to a girl she did not approve]. Has purchased a "Willow Bonnet" for Mary. They are now extremely fashionable because the Dunstable and Chip bonnets of the spring shipment were both ugly and expensive.

A. L. U. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], May 24, 1804

Hopes Mary's [Ridgely] bonnet is satisfactory. Has sent a statement of their account. "My head is so affected by the agitation of my mind that I can do nothing but lament."

A. N. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY] near Wilmington, [Del.], Oct. 28, 1804.

Gives the details of a pleasant trip from Dover with Sally [Ridgely] and "the child" [Charles George Ridgely, infant son of Henry and Sally]. The McKees are delighted with him, and he behaves beautifully. Is worried about little Mary [McKee] who looks fatally ill. Mentions Charity [Alston], John [Banning], Betsy [McKee], Hetty Broom, Betsey Wilson, Betsey Macomb, [Samuel] White and [Dr.] Horsey.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Wilmington, Del.], Oct. 30, 1804.

Mentions Mrs. Broom and her infant, the Wethereds, Betsey Wilson, Becky Reed, Mrs. Bayard and Mary [Bassett], Mrs. Read and Dr. Read, Hetty Broom, Senator [Samuel White], Betsy Macomb, [Dr.] Horsey, "your own Crow," Arch[ibald] Hamilton, and Mary [W.] Ridgely. Will get some cayenne pepper, but could find no lemon candy or barley sugar. [Charles George Ridgely] continues well-behaved and much petted. Still thinks Mary [McKee] is in a "dangerous" condition.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WM.] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, Del., from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Dover, Del., Oct. 31, 1804.

Is relieved that Ann and the baby have arrived safely. Suggests a form of treatment for Mary McKee. Hopes "my little darling" [Charles George Ridgely] who is "of the true Ridgely cast and already begins to show his sociable disposition and his wish to please in company" has been introduced to "his cousin Miss [Mary] Vining." Is sorry to hear the latter's [nephews] are totally dependent upon her and urges her daughter not to neglect her. Charles Townsend's infant son was recently killed by an overdose of paregoric. Begs Sally [Ridgely] to bring her son back to Dover before it turns cold. Mentions members of the McKee family, Mary and Williamina [Ridgely], Dr. Horsey, "poor old Mrs. Clayton" and others.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, Nov. 2, 1804.

Is greatly relieved to learn that "Willy" [Ridgely] is recovering. Expects Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader will spend the winter with the Bonds and go in the spring to join Fanny [Erskine] in England. Much as she will personally miss her sister, feels it is "her only chance for happiness." She remains thin, dejected and greatly changed. Their mother [Mrs. Phineas Bond], though she "bears up wonderfully," dreads the approaching separation.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Wilmington, Del., Nov. 4, 1804.

Hopes "Willy" [Ridgely] will be up by the time she returns. Is having a pleasant, though rather quiet visit. Speaks of Sally [Ridgely], Betsy Wilson, Miss [Mary] Vining, Miss George, the Vining children, Mrs. Read and family, Miss White, Miss Fosset, Miss Sally Brobson, Miss [Betsy] Macomb, Mrs. Bayard, George Strawbridge, and the McKees. [Charles] George [Ridgely] has not been taken to town for fear of smallpox. The absence of Betsy Stockton, Maria Hunn and Hetty Broom makes a great difference in social activities. The brig, *Phoebe Ann,* from Wilmington is feared lost with James and George Lea, sons of the owner, and Captain Brinton among the missing.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WM.] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, Del., from [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 7, 1804.

Hopes the trip is proving beneficial. "Willy's" [Ridgely] fractured leg is healing. She is greatly pleased with Betsy Alston. Is concerned that [Charles George Ridgely] is being kept in Wilmington so late in the season. Mentions Mary [W. Ridgely, daughter of Abraham], Mrs. Sykes, "both Mrs. Claytons," Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Wiltbank, Mrs. Crooks and Mrs. Miller.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.9cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," near Dover, from [MISS ANN RIDGELY], near Wilmington, [Del.], Nov. 11, 1804.

Is concerned at learning "Willy's" [Ridgely] leg is still painful and that her mother is not well. Continues in poor health herself, complaining of a persistent pain in her right side. Wilmington is very dull. Attended a "very genteel party," perfect except that there was but one of that " 'necessary evil', . . . Beaux" to thirteen girls. He was John Lea, too much worried about his brothers who were missing at sea to be entertaining. The Wethered girls now dress more becomingly than they did. John [Banning] is about to leave for school at Brunswick, [N. J.?]. Considers Mrs. [Nehemiah] Tilton attractive, but does not like her sister. Refers to "old Mrs. Stuart," and to Miss Veasey of Chester. Names numerous acquaintances she has met. Sends greetings to Betsy Alston as one of the family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Del., Nov. 15, [1804].

Dr. [John] Vaughan vaccinated Charles George [Ridgely] yesterday. Tells of an accident to Charles Vining. Drs. Vaughan and [Jas.] Tilton have bled him three times and permit no food but barley water, in an effort to prevent inflammation of the brain. Dr. Tilton still fears a skull injury. Is surprised at Miss [Mary] Vining's fortitude. Has heard of the death of a Mrs. Dorsey in Baltimore, but is certain the family would have been notified if their aunt had died. Mentions Ben Vining, Miss George, Eliza [George], Dr. Nixon's wife, in Baltimore, the McKee family and [Dr.] A[braham Ridgely]. Received an invitation from M[artha] Rowan.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from MRS. ANN MIFFLIN, [Kent County, Del.], Dec. 11, 1804.

Asks the advice of Mrs. Ridgely and [Chancellor] Nicholas Ridgely in regard to her own and her children's rights in her deceased husband's estate. Explains her need, the basis of her claim to a share in the property, and her suspicions regarding the long delay in settlement. Wishes the matter kept completely confidential, in the hope she may yet reach an amicable settlement with the other heirs.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21cm. x 26cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], [Dover, c. 1805].

Sends a sample lease for his mother's use in drawing one "for Sisco to sign." Has settled certain business with [Mr.] Graham. Will come out to the farm as soon as possible to discuss both matters more fully. Sends an old [lawyer's] gown as a pattern for one to be made for him, explaining the necessary alterations.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 28.7cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] SARAH BULEY, Wilm[ingto]n, Del., Jan. 10, 1805.

Has arrived safely in Wilmington. Her children have been very ill following inoculation with smallpox, but are nearly well. The physician had been afraid to give cowpox because "it was difficult to get that was good." Sends regards to the Ridgely family, inquiring particularly for "Miss Williamina."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 31cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], No. 274 Ches[t]nut St., Philadelphia, Feb. 13, 1805.

Arrived safely after an uneventful trip. Found their relatives well, with few exceptions. Mrs. [John] Travis speaks highly of Mrs. Tom Cadwalader, who lives a few doors away and has been extremely kind to her, "but his mother [Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader] won't even stop at this door because it is so near." The Travis children are attractive. Philadelphia has changed so in the last three years she would not have known the neighborhood of the Travis house. The bridge over the Schuykill "is the grandest thing of the kind I ever saw," and there is "a beautiful row of new houses up this square." Is delighted with the seven beautiful singing birds and table of flowers in Mrs. Travis' chamber: "You . . . know how fond I am of both." Thinks the whole house charming. John Read, "Young Ingersol," "Young Tantringer" and Tom Cadwalader are her neighbors, with Rundles' garden directly across. Fanny Erskine is not well. Does not expect to see the Hamiltons, since they have never called on Mrs. Travis. Hears "the little Lisles" are beautiful children. Desperately misses "my little darling pet child" [Charles George Ridgely] for whom she plans to purchase and make some caps. Will have her mother's seeds ready to send at any time, but fears Dr. Fisher cannot locate her to take them with him since she gave him an incorrect address.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.6cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], No. 274 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, [c. Feb. 20, 1805].

Begs for more frequent letters, and explains that she herself can write with no regularity since she is unacquainted with post days and has no servant to send to the office. The only blue and white china obtainable is a set of fine Nankeen, 3 doz. each of tea and coffee cups and saucers, and two slop-bowls, a bargain at $40.00. Supposes it is too large, but suggests her mother might order it in partnership with one or two neighbors. Becky Bond has offered to supply Mrs. Ridgely with seed from their recent shipment from England; asks if she prefers to rely on the seedsman. Tom Cadwalader's wife, whom she likes very much, is in poor health. Fears their expected child will not survive, and is convinced Tom will never become reconciled with his family should his wife also die. He visits freely at Mrs. [John] Travis' home and very formally at Mrs. [Phineas] Bond's. His wife is universally admired. Doubts that Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader will really go to England, as she talks of doing. Andrew Hamilton is in England where his uncle has given him an estate, and a thousand guineas for the purchase of a carriage upon his marriage "to a very rich Jewess." Has seen none of the Hamiltons, since she did not attend Necklin's ball and does not expect them to call. "Old Solomon" would be glad to live with Mrs. Ridgely, but fears the Dover climate. Sends word to her sisters that sleeves are worn long, "cut cattercorner ways of the muslin and fit the arm nicely," and that beavers or velvet bonnets "are much worn but as to the head there is no fashion about it." Hopes to send some Athenian poplars, said to be of quicker growth than the Lombardy variety. Is worried [about Charles George Ridgely]. "Mrs. T[ravis'] children w[oul]d be lovely ones, with management; as it is God help her, for such . . . I have never seen and hope I never shall again." Nancy [Travis], whom her grandmother [Mrs. Phineas Bond] has raised, "is a fine girl."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.4cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Mar. 1, 1805.

Writes hastily to tell her mother she is sending the seed by Mr. Manlove, and also a bottle of cayenne for her, "Willy's" [Ridgely] glove, which she must wear, and Ann some chintz for her patchwork, with some lemon candy to be shared among them. After the books have been read wishes them sent to Sally [Ridgely], who will exchange them for *Pizarro* and *The Earl of Essex*. "Tom's [Cadwalader] wife is a lovely woman."

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 25.3cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY, Philadelphia], Mar. 9, 1805.

Tom Cadwalader is preparing a new power of attorney for enclosure in her letter. He felt some diffidence in drawing it, as Mrs. Ridgely has now requested, until he received specific authorization. Comments again on his kindness and her affection for his wife, who was particularly attentive during her own recent illness. Is anxious to return to Wilmington where she can have exercise in the open air. Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader has offered to go with her to a house near Germantown which Mr. [Phineas] Bond has taken for the summer and Becky Bond has invited her to stay with them. Supposes, however, she will remain where she is until she starts home. Sally Goldsborough has an infant son, and Fanny Erskine a fourth child, John Cadwalader [Erskine], born December 20, [1804]. Supposes yesterday's packet brings later news from England. Was bored last night at the play *Lord of the Manor.*

Continues on [March 12]. Has just received a letter from home and is much hurt that her mother could suppose she would not return at the first opportunity after hearing she was unwell, Ann sick, and [Charles George Ridgely] painfully ill.

A. L. S. [incomplete] 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Del., April 2, 1805.

Wishes she had been "here, instead of Philadelphia moping all this time." Mrs. [Wm.] McKee has been extremely kind. Miss [Mary] Vining looked unusually well when she called there with Mary Bassett while walking out to the Brandywine. Plans to go home the first of the week. Now feels much better, but is still "a shadow of a shade." Mrs. McKee has taken another niece, daughter of a recently deceased brother, to live with her. Mentions the members of her own family, Eliza George, Miss Wilson, Becky Reed, Miss White and James M. Broom. Delia Stockton has an infant son, born at New Castle.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philadelphia, April 15, 1805.

Acknowledges receipt of Mrs. Ridgely's power of attorney. Has collected her [bank] dividend. Offers his own and his wife's services whenever the Ridgely family wish to make purchases in the city.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philadelphia, April 19, 1805.

Announces the birth of his son on April first. Is pleased that "Willy" [Ridgely] will soon visit [the city]. His wife liked Mary [Ridgely] and is anxious to meet the other members of the family. Refers to Henry Ridgely, his wife, and their son.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23.3cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from ELIZABETH [MRS. THOS.] DORSEY, Balt[imore], Md., May 3, 1805.

Her daughter, Matilda [Dorsey] plans to visit Chestertown, [Md.] soon and wishes to continue on to Dover if someone can meet her there. Hopes one or more of the Ridgely girls will accompany her home. Asks Nicholas [Ridgely] for a copy of her father's [Nicholas Ridgely, the elder] will, and inquires about the settlement with Mr. Morris. Mentions Mr. Warfield.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.6cm. x 24cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [n. p., ante June, 1805].

Sends, at his mother's request, $16.00, "almost half the money I have in the world." Wonders why the books cost more than the price previously agreed upon.

A. N. S. 1 p. 16.4cm. x 10cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY, "Somerville," Del.], June 15, 1805.

Reached "the Chancellor's" [Nicholas Ridgely] after a comfortable trip. Feels better than usual. Was very cordially received, both by her brother and "Polly" [Mary Brereton]. Mentions "Sister and Mary."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24cm.

[MISS ANN RIDGELY, Wilmington, Del.] from [MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], June 17, 1805.

Is still worried over Ann's health. Hopes she found [Sally and Charles George Ridgely] well when she reached Wilmington. Inquires about "Cousin M[ary] Vining and the dear little flock she has with her." Harry [Ridgely] can supply her needs if the enclosed $10.00 is insufficient. Suggests "y[ou]r friend Bringhurst" be consulted about purchases. Whitewashing has improved the appearance of the house [at "Eden Hill"]. "Willy" [Ridgely] is making raspberry and currant jam.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.8cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, [Del.], June 18, 1805.

Arrived in Wilmington last evening. Has seen Sally Loockerman, Kitty Rees, Mrs. Broom and Hetty, [Samuel] White, [Dr.] Horsey, John MacMullan, Betsy McKee and "P[erry] and [Lewen] Wethered." Hears Mr. [Jas. A.] Bayard is ill. Hopes to go out to McKees' as soon as she finds transportation.

[Unsigned note on the back, in Mary Ridgely's hand, expresses worry because Ann has said nothing of "her Brother or the child" and he has not arrived home. Promises to see her mother soon.]

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Wilmington, Del.], June 20, 1805.

[Charles George Ridgely] is well, growing rapidly, and becoming "a good deal spoiled since Rachel's sickness." Said goodbye to Hetty [Broom] yesterday and feels exhausted from the exertion. Enjoys staying with Mrs. Brooks. [John] Dickinson says "Charles George is a perfect Moore, particularly like you." Maria D[ickinson] greeted her warmly. Betsy Strawbridge has an infant son. [Samuel] White, according to report, is courting Miss Boardly. Mentions Miss [Mary] V[ining], Miss George, Mrs. [J. A.] Bayard, Charity [Alford], the McKees, Mary Bassett, Betsey Wilson, Dr. [John] Vaughan and [Jas. A.] Bayard's two attractive young students, John Barratt [of Dover] and Mr. Ward of Maryland. Obtained some handsome French mantua, and morocco shoes, but cannot find any of kid.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, Del., June 24, 1805.

Expects to leave the following day for Philadelphia, travelling with Mrs. [Jas. A.] Bayard, but would prefer to remain in Wilmington. Wants to see the Masonic parade. Wishes her family lived in Wilmington. Though her appetite has improved and she has eaten more meat than usual, she is troubled with "the pain in my stomach more severely than before I left home." Is glad to hear no "trails" are worn in Philadelphia as she dislikes "long clothes." Mr. [John] Dickinson wants her to make an extended visit with him when she returns from Philadelphia. Refers casually to most of her Wilmington friends.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.3cm. x 21cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] SARAH BULEY, Philadelphia, June 30, 1805.

A former servants reports that her family is well, her two daughters satisfactorily placed in service, and that she has a good business as a laundress while her husband is employed as a carter. Lives "in Middle Alley between Elizabeth and Pine and Sixth and Seventh Street."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Philadelphia], July 6, 1805.

Is not particularly happy in Philadelphia, and complains of "every expression of kindness but no real indulgence." Is always tired. Wants to go back to Wilmington but cannot be ready in time to accompany [Dr.] Horsey. Thinks the family have the idea she is "perfectly well," but unfortunately it is not true. Jane Rowan has done some shopping for her. Is sorry to hear of the death of "poor Broom's child." Regretted her inability to see more of the McKees and Wethereds, but could not walk so far. Her Aunt wants her to visit Yellow Springs. Is going to the country. Likes Tom Cadwalader's wife.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], July 6, [1805].

The Bond family are delighted to have Ann [Ridgely] with them, and hope she can make a long visit. Thinks "she w[oul]d be perfectly well if she would eat and drink like other people" and not sacrifice her health to "a want of exertion." Fears Ann's conduct may have the same fatal results she saw before "in my own family." Mamma [Mrs. Phineas Bond] is better. Refers to the various members of the Ridgely family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.6cm. x 19.5cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Philad[elphia, post July 6, 1805].

Is still feeling wretched and is worried at not hearing from home. Wishes she had returned with [Samuel] White. W[illiamina] Travis has been very sick. Likes Mrs. [John] Travis better than she used to, though "her whims & capers respecting her children and servants are still the same." Is fond of Tom Cadwalader's wife. Feels hurt that Sally [Ridgely] sent by Betsy Wilson for a hat for her son, since the one she promised and has sent "is very fashionable."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, [Del.], from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER], London, [England], July 25, [1805].

This first letter from England is intended for the entire Ridgely family. Now realizes "it was high time" to bring her granddaughter home, but grieves at leaving her own mother with little hope of ever seeing her again. Speaks of her daughter Fanny, [son-in-law David] Erskine and their two sons. Likes the English landscape and climate so far as she has seen them. Is amazed at the extent of London. Describes parks and public buildings. Hopes to see [the actress] Mrs. Siddons, and to attend the opera once, from curiosity, but plans to live a retired life in the country. Has met "our relations, Mr. & Mrs. Moore of North Crary."

A. L. S., 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY, near Philadelphia], July 26, 1805.

Is in the country, where she is comfortable and her friends are attentive. Mrs. Mifflin sent "sugar candy," a squab the cat unfortunately got, and medicine recommended as a tonic. Had a visit from "Mrs. [John] Travis and her five tormentors," made worse by the fact the children all had mumps. Has not seen the Hamiltons. Asks Sally [Ridgely] for directions about a hat to be bought for her. Thoroughly dislikes Patty Rowan. Adds a later pencilled note, explaining that the letter has been delayed because it could not be gotten to town.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND, near Philadelphia], Aug. [sic; actually July] 31, 1805.

Is very much concerned about Ann [Ridgely] who neither eats nor exercises properly and lies down most of the time. Finds it almost impossible to get her to talk of anything but her own illness. Regrets that she herself is so confined by her mother's "indifferent" health and low spirits that she cannot take Ann to Yellow Springs.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [near Philadelphia], Aug. 5, 1805.

The whole family is greatly worried about Ann [Ridgely], who does not improve. She has finally consented to see Dr. [Caspar] Wistar, who prescribes rhubarb, followed by prepared chalk with gum arabic and laudanum at four-hour intervals, for a bowel complaint, an additional sedative at bedtime, and plenty of nourishment to restore her depleted strength.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.8cm. x 22.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY, near Philadelphia], Aug. 5, 1805.

Notices improvement since placing herself in Dr. [Caspar] Wistar's care. Every attention is paid her, and every wish gratified. Is anxious for Sally's [Ridgely] directions about the bonnet. Saw a great bargain in dimity. Must get more money from Tom Cadwalader, "as this is the last visit I shall ever pay to Phil[adelphia], at any rate if I live single, [and] there are several little comforts and conveniences I wish much to have." Refers to some silk coats expected from France, to Tom Cadwalader's attractive little son, and to a letter from [her cousin] Matilda Dorsey.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, c/o P[HINEAS] BOND, Esq., Ches[t]nut St., Philadelphia, from [MISS MARY RIDGELY], Dover, Aug. 13, 1805.

Ann's recent letter gives reason to hope Mrs. Ridgely and "Willy" found her better than they expected. Supposes her mother will take Ann to Yellow Springs for a while before returning home. Dr. Horsey has no doubt of her prompt recovery if she goes there. Checked the granary with [Mr.] Green. Recommends selling about $100.00 worth of grain not needed on the farm and in danger of spoiling. "Do for once trust my management." Thomas Concielor wishes to rent the Duck Creek farm, for which he considers $200 a ridiculously low price. He thinks half the grain a fairer figure. Accuses [the tenant] Graham of "sawing up your timber." [Her nephew, Charles George Ridgely] stays most of his time with her, as his father wishes. Speaks facetiously of "buying him back" after a day with his mother with "an apple pye." Mentions "Green's brother," Betsy Warner, and Martin . . . [Negroes] Dover and Jim are preparing shingles for repairing the stables. "Bishop died last night. If I was his wife how glad I sh[oul]d be."

A. L. U. 4 pp. 16.8cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, c/o P[HINEAS] BOND, Ches[t]nut St., Philadelphia, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Dover, Aug. 27, 1805.

Is gravely worried at receiving no word from Philadelphia by yesterday's mail, for she is very anxious [about Ann]. Busies herself with managing the farm and "with my sweet Boy" [Charles George Ridgely] who is just beginning to run about and now requires constant watching. "He takes after Aunt Willy in fleetness of foot." Harry [Ridgely] is "getting in fine health again." Is much concerned about Dr. Horsey, who was suddenly stricken with a lung hemorrhage last week while attending John Bellach and is rallying very slowly. "Did I not know the D[octo]r was not one of your favorites, . . . I should not have mentioned it, but had you seen him last evening . . . you would have felt (not as I did) but indeed compassion." Wishes it were possible for her to come to Philadelphia if only for a single day. The servants are behaving well, Dover and Jem especially so. James Ayres has rented the Roland farm and sent a certain John Saxton "to rent yours." Henry [Ridgely] advises her, however, to rent to the Concieler brothers, who "Mr. Killen said were the only honest tenants he ever had."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from DAN[IE]L Harryson, [Dover?], Sept. 7, 1805.

Reports that Sarah Quillin bought 49 shillings 6 pence worth of goods from him during Mrs. Ridgely's absence. Asks that she withhold her wages to that amount for settling the bill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 18cm.

MRS. [THOMAS] DORSEY, [Elk Ridge, Md.], from MRS. A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover, post Sept. 13, 1805].

Explains that her son, Henry M. Ridgely, will be pleased to take his cousin Nicholas Dorsey as a law student, but because of his own "large family" he cannot offer to board the young man in his home. Would be pleased to have her nephew live with her until he finds more convenient accommodations. Assures Mrs. Dorsey there was no intention of charging a fee for Nicholas' instruction.

Df. U. 1 p. 16.5cm. x 15.2cm.

[MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from JOHN DICKINSON, Wilmington, Del., [Sept.] 19, 1805.

Offers condolence upon the death of Mrs. Ridgely's "beloved child" [Ann, who died August 29 at Mrs. Phineas Bond's, in Germantown].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Mickleham [England], Oct. 25, 1805.

Expresses her sorrow at Ann's [Ridgely] death and her sympathy for Mrs. Ridgely. Recalls the saintly resignation of "your mother . . . and my g[rand]mother" [Mrs. Wm. Moore] in a similar trial. Expects to spend the winter in London with the Erskines, and the following summer in Scotland with Mrs. Liston. Fanny [Erskine] is better.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philadelphia, Nov. 7, 1805.

The inscription [for Ann Ridgely's tombstone] has been completed. Is sorry to hear of "Willy's" [Ridgely] illness. Recently received letters from his mother, written September 5, reporting that she was well.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, Nov. 23, 1805.

Urges her aunt to "make an exertion to recover your Health and in some degree regain your spirits," difficult as it will be, for the sake of her [surviving] children. Refers to a recent letter from her own sister [Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader], and to household linens her mother intends sending, an itemized list of which she encloses.

A. L. S. [1 enclosure] 2 pp. + 1 18cm. x 24cm.

THOMAS CADWALADER, [Philadelphia], from [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY, Dover], Nov. 28, 1805.

Thanks him for kindness at the time of her daughter Ann's death and tells of the illness of her daughters, Mary and "Willy" [Ridgely]. Asks him to obtain Dr. [Caspar] Wistar's bill for attending Ann and encloses $60 advanced on her account. Mentions Mrs. [Thos.] Cadwalader, his mother, Mrs. [John] Travis, and Miss [Rebecca] Bond.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

[MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN DICKINSON, Wilmington [Del., Dec.] 4, 1805.

Gives Cousin Debby Logan's remedy for the jaundice: "inner Bark of the Barberry Tree boiled in new milk," with the request that it "be tried without loss of Time."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] SARAH ANN WETHERED, "Prospect Hill," [near Wilmington, Del.], Jan. [1806].

Offers sympathy to the mother of her intimate friend, Ann [Ridgely]. Thinks Charles George [Ridgely] a charming child. Sends greetings to Sally [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philad[elphia], Jan. 15, 1806.

Apologizes for failure to acknowledge a letter. Has not yet received Dr. [Caspar] Wistar's bill. Refers to their account. [His wife] Mary [Cadwalader] offers to "execute any commissions here for you."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] MATILDA CAVERLY, Milford, [Del.], Mar. 29, [ante 1807].

Requests some plants and seeds for her garden, suggesting "gessamine Honey Suckle," white rose and "seed of the Scarcity root," though she can use anything Mrs. Ridgely can spare. Invites her and her daughters to Milford.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.7cm. x 22cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [no address], April 12, 1806.

Announces his intention of marrying Mary Brereton. "This I think will promote my domestic Felicity and contribute to my Comfort." His household requires a mistress' authority for its proper management, and the lady of his choice is an exemplary housewife. In addition, "her Habits and Disposition entirely suit my own." Approval from his friends would add to his happiness in the marriage, which he means to contract whether it is approved or not. Asks that his news be held in the strictest confidence within the immediate family.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZABETH [MRS. THOS.] DORSEY, Baltimore, [Md.], June 21, 1806.

Has reached home safely after a family tragedy involving [her daughter] Juliet . . . "Poor old Mr. Hawkins" appeared heartbroken. Alludes to "the Dreadfull Callemety." Appreciates the Ridgely family's kindness. Hopes her son Nicholas [Dorsey] conducts himself satisfactorily in Dover.

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 19.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THOS. CADWALADER, Philadelphia, Aug. 6, 1806.

Is very sorry delivery of Mrs. Ridgely's porter has been held up by lack of conveyance, for he realizes it is "essential to the health of your family at this Season." Regrets "Willy's" [Ridgely] delicate health, and invites her to visit them in the hope of improving it. Refers to their account, to his own two sons John and George [Cadwalader], his grandmother's [Mrs. Phineas Bond] family, and letters from the Ridgely family to his mother.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THOS. CADWALADER, Philad[elphi]a, Aug. 11, 1806.

The two barrels of porter have just been placed aboard the sloop *Polly,* Captain Collins, for Little Creek Landing. Captain Collins declines giving a receipt, "it not being his custom."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Wilm[ingto]n, Del., Sept. 19, [1806].

Has just arrived at Dr. [Wm.] McKee's after a trip far less tiring than she had expected.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philadelphia, Sept. 19, 1806.

Asks Mrs. Ridgely's help in finding a "good-tempered Boy, from 12 to 15 years of Age" to replace a valuable servant who plans to go into business for himself. Does not think his place can be filled from "among the Animals to be met with in this great City." Does not wish the lad "to be very smart and knowing; in a Town like this, the spur is safer than the rein." Will pay any reasonable wage to a suitable applicant.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 23.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Phila[delphia], Sept. 24, 1806.

Has been very cordially received in Philadelphia, but will stay only while Harry [Ridgely] does. He is now at Princeton [N. J.] with John [Banning?]. May visit a while in Wilmington. Mentions the Bonds, Tom Cadwalader, his wife and sons George and [John Cadwalader], Miss Drayton, and Mr. and Mrs. [Thos.] Bradford. Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader, with Fanny and John Erskine, will remain in England. "The minister [David Erskine] is daily expected at Washington; everybody blames him for coming."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA RIDGELY], Wilmington, Del., Sept. 28, 1806.

Spent several pleasant days in Philadelphia where she saw the Bonds, Cadwaladers, and Mrs. [John] Travis, but returned to Wilmington to have greater independence. Since Betsy Alston is proving a satisfactory companion for her mother, will stay in town a week, boarding with Mrs. Brooks. Sends a small gift for each of the family and encloses one from Mrs. [Thos.] Bradford [née Elizabeth Loockerman] to her mother Mrs. Nixon. Black and white calicoes have been hard to find. Refers to baby cap patterns for Sally [Ridgely]. Since the fall ships have not arrived there are few new styles. Bought herself a "Trafalgar cap." Wants to save the [originally] enclosed verses *On A Beautiful Child Sleeping*. "Little Sarah," her children and "Jeffery" [former servants or slaves] are now comfortably established in the city. Fears "poor [Dr.] Horsey" will not need the reservations made for him for an East Indian voyage in the spring. The parents of Harry Ingersol, who died on his way to Batavia, are grief-stricken. The Erskines have sent ahead seven tons of goods; "their coming gives no pleasure to their friends." Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader planned to travel through England and Scotland during the summer just past. Reminds her mother to take good care of the birds, cats and flowers.

A. L. S. 6 + 1 pp. 20.4cm. x 24.4cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, [Del.], Oct. 2, 1806.

Gives news of the Vining family, mentioning Seton, Benjamin, Henry and Charles, their aunt [Mary] Vining and uncle James Seton. "Tilton Hill" is a lovely spot and Dr. [James] Tilton was very cordial. Feels perfectly at home with the McKees. Discusses some purchases recently sent down. Cotton lace is fashionable and reasonable in price. Describes "Mary Wynkoop's husband Mr. Davies." Mentions Mrs. Warner, Daniel Lowber, Mrs. Brooks, John Dickinson, Miss Macomb, Miss Lookerman, James Macomb, Miss Hanson, her [own] nephew Charles George [Ridgely], and others of the family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.5cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Wilmington, [Del.], Oct. 3, 1806.

During her trip has seen the Hamiltons, Dr. Reed and wife, Mrs. Broom and Mrs. Freeman. Also mentions Mary Bassett, Mrs. [Jas. A.] Bayard and Mrs. [George] Monroe. Was surprised to learn that in England Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader has become intimate with an American family who had been shopkeepers at home. "In her own country, . . . you know [she] treated [such people] as trash; she now sees the difference." The Bonds have been worrying about the London packet, overdue with a "valuable cargo," [probably the Erskine family].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.3cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Wilmington, [Del.], Oct. 14, 1806.

Sends "the vial of rhubarb" by "Brother Abram" [Ridgely] who had been called to attend young Richard Bayard. Though the child has been "at the point of death" from a "nervous fever" he is now recovering. Dined at Mr. McMullan's with Mrs. Broom, her sister, Mrs. McKee and others.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.6cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Wilm[ingto]n, Del., Oct. 15, 1806.

Denies a report she has been ill. Social engagements and correspondence have kept her busy. Little Richard Bayard is now considered out of danger. Mentions Mrs. Adams, Miss Hanson, Mrs. Fisher and her daughter, "poor Mrs. Clayton" and a little girl connected with her. Hopes Mary [W. Ridgely] will be allowed to visit Wilmington. Sends birthday greetings to her mother.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, Del., from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philad[delphia, Penna.], Jan. 19, 1807.

Forwards a statement of their account. Has found a man for the position about which he wrote, and would not "displace" him except with a very exceptional boy.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philad[elphia], Mar. 3, 1807.

Adds a bill for porter, $13.70, to the previous account. His mother, now back from Scotland, is settled in her cottage at Mickleham [England]. Congratulates Harry [Ridgely] and his wife upon the birth of John Banning [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZABETH [MRS. THOS.] DORSEY, Baltimore, [Md.], May 13, 1807.

Announces the safe arrival of her son Nicholas [Dorsey]. Asks for his board bill. Refers to the death of her daughter Juliet [née Dorsey] and "the dreadful death of her [Juliet's] unhappy husband" within the year since her visit to Dover. The family approve the bride of "my son the Doct[or]." Sends a gift of tea to Mrs. Ridgely, and a dress for John Banning [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 31.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, Del., July 6, 1807.

She and [Charles George Ridgely] arrived safely. The little boy was very much admired wherever she took him in town except by Mrs. Bedford who "took no notice of him (the old hag)." Mary [Bassett?] seems better and "I really can see no sign of dying about her." She "thinks her life depends on seeing Dr. [Abraham] Ridgely at this time." Hopes "Willy" [Ridgely] is better. Has purchased for her mother "one of the best black handkerchiefs I ever saw." Speaks of Dr. and Mrs. Read, Mrs. Capron, Mrs. Oldmixon, Mrs. [Jas. A.] Bayard, Miss Bayard, [Jas. A.] Bayard, and "old Mrs. Stuart."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, Del., July 13, 1807.

Plans to come home during the week. Believes Mary [Bassett?] is recovering. [Charles George Ridgely] is well and perfectly contented, though he talks of "Brother John" and all the others at home. Has not yet mentioned "any of his live stock." Finds it very difficult to make purchases since all the shopkeepers are hoarding their goods in the hope the war "all classes calculate on as certain" will raise prices. When she tried on his "Heiland dress" [Charles] George was so delighted with its trowsers she could "scarcely get them off again. 'Tis trowsers with a short fly, or frock, over, tied back with green ribbon, and [worn with] green sandles; the dress is of white dimity; he looks sweet." Has a frock of another style cut out for him. Alludes to Mr. [Outerbridge?] Horsey.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZABETH [MRS. THOS.] DORSEY, Baltimore, [Md.], Aug. 14, 1807.

"My daughter Betsy's youngest child" recently died, after a painful illness. Was distressed at hearing of "Willy's" [Ridgely] dangerous illness, and hopes her reported improvement continues. Mentions "Theod[ore's?] wife."

A. L. S. 1 p. 17.7cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY, Dover, ante Nov. 1807].

Gives a detailed recipe for a spice cake. It was most successful. Chose the best "pair of pots" she could find in Wilmington; paid 11 shillings, 3 pence a pair. Complains that Mrs. Mifflin, "as usual," overcharged her for butter, which was scarce at Camden [Del.]. Received only "five pounds for a Dollar." Repeats a cryptic message from Henry [Ridgely].

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 32.3cm.

DR. [ABRAHAM] RIDGELY, Smyrna, [Del.], from [MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, [Dover, post Nov. 1807].

Describes the condition of her daughter, Mary [wife of Dr. William Winder Morris] whose blindness had been treated with blisters and medicine which have not yet been successful. Requests that he come as soon as he can.

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 21cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH BULEY, Philadelphia, Dec. 29, 1807.

She and her daughter have both been ill. Finally purchased the warming pan and scales, but found them more expensive than she expected. All the articles were shipped in the care of Captain Collins. Refers to Mrs. [Wm. W.] Morris [née Mary Ridgely], her own daughter Polly, "my dear Liza," Mrs. Lewis and daughter Nancy, and Cyrus, who was delighted with the gift from "his Mistress [Mrs. Ridgely] and Mrs. Morris."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philad[elphia], Jan. 16, 1808.

States their account. Has forwarded the letter for his mother.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS [SALLY] DICKINSON, [Wilmington, Del.], from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, post Feb. 14, 1808].

Offers condolence to the Dickinson sisters on the death of their father; refers to the long friendship between the families and quotes from John Dickinson's letter to Mrs. Ridgely upon her daughter Ann's death.

A. Df. U. 1 p. 15cm. x 20.5cm.

[MRS.] ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] SALLY NORRIS DICKINSON, Wilmington, [Del.], Mar. 18, 1808.

Deeply appreciates Mrs. Ridgely's letter of sympathy following the death of her father [John Dickinson]. Alludes to "the extreme sorrow he experienced, in early life, upon the death of a sweet little girl whom he fondly loved," and the understanding of similar grief that experience gave him. Mentions her sister [Maria Dickinson].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

[MRS. ELIZABETH DORSEY, Baltimore] from [MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, c. May 1, 1808].

Tells her sister[in-law] of the sudden death of her "first child" [Williamina Ridgely]. Says that [Nicholas] Dorsey is well and speaks of the condition of the grain market.

A. Df. U. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 15.2cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Phi[ladelphia], May 6, 1808.

Expresses her deep sorrow [at "Willy" Ridgely's death], and her sympathy for the family. Her [own] mother [Mrs. Phineas Bond], grieves for "Willy" and is worried about Mrs. Ridgely. Inquires about Mary [Morris].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Mickleham, Surry, [England], May 29, 1808.

Mrs. Ridgely's New Year's letter did not arrive "till the last of April." Grieves at being separated from all those she loves except Fanny Erskine's two children, but is trying to reconcile herself to the situation. Asks for the details of Mary's [Ridgely] marriage to Dr. [Wm. W.] Morris, casually referred to in several letters from home. Is distressed at "Willy's [Ridgely] illness [of the past summer]. Warns that "you will lose her" if she is permitted to stay in Kent County during August. Promises melon seeds.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, June 18, 1808.

Thought T[om] Cadwalader had notified the Ridgelys of her own severe illness, the cause of her recent silence. Refers to "Willy's" [Ridgely] death. Is glad "my poor Aunt [Rebecca] Smith" can know nothing of Mrs. [Samuel] B[lodgett]'s activities. Annoyed at delay in settling her father's estate she has gone to New York and intends keeping a boarding house, though she had planned to go to England. Sent her eldest son to sea "before the Mast" as a trial for the Navy. Some of her relatives think the other children, now at school, should be rescued from her custody.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZA[BE]TH [MRS. THOS.] DORSEY, Baltimore, [Md.], June 22, 1808.

Expresses her sympathy for Mrs. Ridgely's sorrow over Williamina's [Ridgely] death, and speaks of the religious consolation that enabled her to bear a similar bereavement. Has been in poor health. Refers to her children, Nicholas and Matilda [Dorsey].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 28cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Mickleham, Surry, [England], June 27, [1808].

Has just received the distressing news [of Williamina's death]. Knows that grief is selfish in such circumstances, but cannot attempt even to express her sorrow both for her own loss and her aunt's.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from ELIZ[ABE]TH [MRS. THOS.] DORSEY, Baltimore, Md., July 16, 1808.

Sends $125.00 for the expenses of her son Nicholas [Dorsey], dividing the sum between two letters for safety. Is glad Mrs. Ridgely has been able to accept her sorrow with resignation. Refers to the death of her own beloved daughter. The current hot weather has caused many deaths "from the Imprudent use of cold water." Inquires about her son's [Nicholas Dorsey] progress and conduct.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.8cm. x 19.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND], Philad[elphia], Aug. 16, 1808.

Has just returned from Long Branch [N. J.?], where she benefitted by the sea air and bathing. The Erskines have remained there. T[homas] Moore brings word that Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett's brothers have dissuaded her from the disgraceful and ruinous plan of keeping a boarding house and made adequate plans for her support until the estate is settled. Mentions Mary [Morris], Nan [Ann Travis], her sister [Mrs. Williamina Calwalader], her brother, her mother, and [Mr.] Prince whose sisters in England inherited a fortune from "an old woman who kept a Boarding school."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philad[elphi]a, Oct. 16, 1808.

Will have the inscription placed on [Williamina Ridgely's] tombstone as soon as her family approves its wording. Visits Ann's [Ridgely] grave from time to time to supervise its care. Discusses finances. Has heard recently from his mother and from Mrs. [Wm. W.] Morris.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], Oct. 26, 1808.

Hopes Harry's [Ridgely] servant will call for a letter. Inquires about Mary's [Morris] health, which she hopes will improve after the birth of her child. The Erskine family have returned to Washington, where she plans to join them in the winter until after Fanny's [Erskine] confinement. Worries greatly about leaving her mother alone at her advanced age, for Mrs. [John] Travis is not so attentive to her needs as Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader always was. Misses the latter constantly. Alludes to the Prince family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 22.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philad[elphi]a, Oct. 31, 1808.

Asks to have [Williamina Ridgely's] age sent immediately, as only that line is missing from the epitaph. The slabs will be boxed at once, ready to be sent at the first opportunity. Is not quite satisfied with the inscription but thinks it a great improvement over his own suggestion. Fears the pippins cannot be shipped to his mother during the embargo, but will tell her of the offer. "The 3 Boys are well, John, George & Tom [Cadwalader]."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Washington, [D. C.], Dec. 6, 1808.

Has been pleasantly surprised by Washington's attractive situation. If the houses had been built close together it would already "have made as good a figure as Wilmington." Finds the debate in the House of Representatives interesting and its chamber beautiful. Complains, however, of the poor acoustics, cold and lack of accomodations for ladies who must sit in the balcony "huddled together with all sorts of people." Admires [Rep. John] Randolph as a speaker. Mr. [David] Erskine regrets missing Harry's [Ridgely] visit. Fanny [Erskine] expects her child in January, and plans to name it, if a boy, Henry David [Erskine]. Fears "the shabbly fellows" named after Washington will put the name "quite out of fashion." Refers to Sally Goldsborough and her husband.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. W[ILLIAMINA] CADWALADER, Styne Brighton, [England], Jan. 3, 1809.

Assumes from the tone of Mrs. Ridgely's letters that her faith in immortality has reconciled her to the deaths of her [three] children. Her own grief for "Willy" [Ridgely] was especially deep. Hopes Mary [Morris] is now better adjusted to the loss of her sister, and that she may be pregnant. Speaks of her own grandchildren Fanny and John [Erskine] whose education she is directing. Four-year-old John "reads charmingly." Has made a few close friends, "particularly Mrs. Holland, Lord Erskine's eldest daughter," of whose home and family she tells.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.6cm. x 23cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ANN BOND TRAVIS, Philadelphia, Jan. 5, 1809.

Has been much occupied with the care of her "dearest Grandmama" [Mrs. Phineas Bond] who has been very ill for several weeks. They have not notified her aunt [Miss Rebecca Bond], now staying in Washington with Mrs. [David] Erskine, of her mother's condition, for "so dreadful are the roads that if she were to set out now on her return, it would be at the Risk of her Life."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from ROBERT PATTERSON, Smyrna, [Del.], Jan. 13, 1809.

Does not have storage space for all the corn due Mrs. Ridgely from Wm. Sisco, "the garners being nearly all full at the Landing," but can take about 500 bushels. Makes suggestions regarding the remainder. Mentions Ben Sisco.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philad[elphi]a, Jan. 13, 1809.

Returned home at once when she learned, by chance, of her mother's illness. Thinks she is better. Mrs. Bond now shows some symptoms suggesting gout. Promises to keep Mrs. Ridgely informed of any changes in her condition.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philad[elphi]a, Jan. 17, 1809.

Her mother [Mrs. Phineas Bond] "continues to mend." She is now unmistakably suffering from gout.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philad[elphia], Jan. 22, 1809.

Mrs. Bond suffers a great deal from her "fit of the gout" and finds her treatment a terrible ordeal. She asks Mrs. Ridgely, who nursed their father [Wm. Moore], to describe his treatment in full detail.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philad[elphia], Jan. 25, 1809.

States their account. Fears there is little hope of his grandmother's recovery, though Miss [Rebecca] Bond's return from Washington "has afforded her great Comfort."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Kent County, Del., from E[LIZABETH, MRS. JOHN] TRAVIS, [Philadelphia], Mar. 5, 1809.

Grieves bitterly for her mother [Mrs. Phineas Bond] who had been her constant friend and comforter. "I do not lament for a mother of eighty, but one of forty" whom she cannot reconcile herself to surviving.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], April, [1809].

Has had news from [Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader] who is "well but truly wretched." Sends some "already sweetened" chocolate, the only delicacy available. Henry Erskine, a brother of David, "destined for the Church" is in the United States.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.8cm. x 22.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND, Philadelphia], May 7, 1809.

She and [Mrs. John Travis] have both been ill, but are better. Refers to [Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader] and Fanny [Erskine]. Illness in the family has prevented her from seeing Mrs. [Henry M.] Ridgely's sister [Elizabeth McKee] recently. Discusses Mr. Sam Chew's surprising will, excluding the children of his first marriage, but providing generously for Mrs. Nicklin, Mrs. Philips, and his unmarried daughters. Has some fine Illinois nuts to send to Dover at the first opportunity.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 22.7cm.

[MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from ELIZABETH [MRS. THOS.] DORSEY, Baltimore, [Md.], June 6, 1809.

Thanks her sister[-in-law] for her kindness to Nicholas [Dorsey] who she hopes "has conducted himself with becoming propriety." Encloses $125.00 for his year's board.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], June 29, 1809.

Is glad to hear N[icholas] Ridgely is recovering. Thinks Mrs. Ridgely's "new situation will be more cheerful than the one you left." Is wretched about [Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader], alone in England, and will be very glad when Fanny [Erskine] returns. Fanny and her family plan to travel after Congress adjourns. Her [own] family has "taken a little Box in case of yellow fever."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.8cm. x 22.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philad[elphi]a, Aug. 26, 1809.

Has placed the order for the "Coffee Pot and cans" with Mr. [James] Howel. Sends "Drafts of Inscriptions," remarking that he and his wife "prefer the old english characters." Ann's [Ridgely] grave was in order at his recent visit. Mentions his mother.

A. L. S. [1 enclosure] 2 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.7cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], Sept. 7, 1809.

Refers to [British Minister David] Erskine's recall following repudiation of his negotiations. Admits he exceeded his authority, but feels the urgency of some understanding between the United States and England justified his action. Has three of the Erskine children in her care. Lord Erskine has purchased a lovely estate in Sussex [Co., England] for his son. Hopes [Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader's] spirits will improve when her daughter reaches home. Comments on "Penn's" unsuitable marriage. Apologizes for her inability to offer Miss [Elizabeth] McKee greater hospitality.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philad[elphi]a, Nov. 12, 1809.

Is relieved to learn Mrs. Ridgely is improving after a severe illness. Worries a great deal about [her niece] Fanny [Erskine] and her children, who left for England the first of the month and will arrive off the English coast at a dangerous season. Refers to the estate purchased for her husband by [his father] Lord Erskine.

Thomas Cadwalader adds a note, stating "the plate" is finished and ready for delivery.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philad[elphi]a, Nov. 21, 1809.

Has given the coffee pot and cans to Mr. [Samuel] White to deliver. Hopes they will prove satisfactory, for great care was taken in designing them. Encloses the bill from James Howell, the silversmith, for $172.00. Latest letters from his mother were written in September.

A. L. S. 2 pp. + 1 18cm. x 22.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ANN BOND TRAVIS, Philadelphia, Nov. 24, 1809.

Writes at her aunt's request to let the Ridgely family know their Philadelphia relatives are well, but worried about "cousin Fanny [Erskine] and her little Folks" who are at sea at such a dangerous time of the year.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philad[elphi]a, Feb. 12, 1810.

Complains of having received no replies to her last five letters. Again apologizes for failure to entertain Mrs. [Henry M.] Ridgely's sister as she wished to do. Has no news of Fanny [Erskine] beyond word of her safe arrival. Tom Blodgett has left the British Navy, into which he says his mother forced him. "His mad mother [Mrs. Samuel Blodgett] is living at Lodgings in London" with three of her children.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, Mar. 16, 1810.

Is very much hurt at not hearing from any of the Ridgely family. Fanny [Erskine] had a pleasant passage home and is delighted with their new estate. Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader has the offer of a cottage near her daughter's home. Hopes she herself may soon join her sister in England, as she misses her greatly. Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett's son, just released from the British Navy into which he was placed against his will, is a neglected and completely uneducated youth.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS REBECCA BOND, Philadelphia], April 15, 1810.

Will try to find a way of sending down some lobsters. Anxiously awaits the arrival of the March packet, bringing the February [English] mail. Hears rumors of an adjustment of the difficulties with England. Censures [Napoleon] Bonaparte's public and private life. Inquires about Mary [Morris].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 23.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, May 13, 1810.

Mrs. [Williamina] Pawling wishes to keep a still belonging to Mrs. Ridgely, since she plans opening a store on the Bethlehem road. Asks what she should be told. Does not enjoy intercourse with Mrs. Pawling and [her mother?] Mrs. Moore, but is bound by a promise to her own mother to attend to the older woman's needs.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.5cm. x 24.3cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND, Philadelphia, post May 13, 1810].

Inquires again what Mrs. Ridgely wants done about the still. Will insist that Mrs. Pawling leave it until [their aunt's] instructions arrive. Is glad she is moving fourteen miles away.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 14.5cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], May 22, 1810.

Will send the cream cheese in the morning if possible, and if not will "watch the stages" for a chance to have it delivered.

A. N. S. 1 p. 15.5cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], May 26, 1810.

Sends the cheeses with a person travelling to Dover. Mentions "Willy" Moore, daughter of Sturge [Moore], and Miss Gibbs of New Port, [R. I.].

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], July 12, 1810.

Tells of her brother's [Phineas Bond] recent ill health. He has been bled several times since being thrown on his head in a fall from his horse and is still "weak and languid." He has abandoned the idea of taking leave of absence to visit England this year, but will go next spring. She herself is anxious to join Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader. Asks about the quality of the souchong tea.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 13.5cm. x 18.6cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA BOND, Phi[ladelphia], Aug. 8, 1810.

Has been ill. She and her brother plan a short trip soon. Ned Bond is about to marry a daughter of Woodring Sims. Both are wealthy. Is sorry to learn Mrs. Ridgely's health shows little improvement.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.3cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from JOSEPH JEWELL, Duck Creek Neck,]Del.], Aug. 28, 1810.

Wishes to transfer his option as a Ridgely tenant to William David, whom he considers a competent farmer. David's "uncle, Benj. Vanwinkle, will be his security for his good performance." The tenant house is badly in need of repair.

A. L. S. 1 p. 24.8cm. x 30.5cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], from CHARLES NIXON, [Dover, ante December, 1810].

Is in immediate need of funds to send away, so reluctantly asks Mrs. Ridgely, whom he hates to disturb "today," if she can "exchange Sixty Dollars . . . for Notes."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 32cm.

MRS. ANN RIDGELY, [Dover, Del.], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY, Dover, Del., ante December, 1810[.

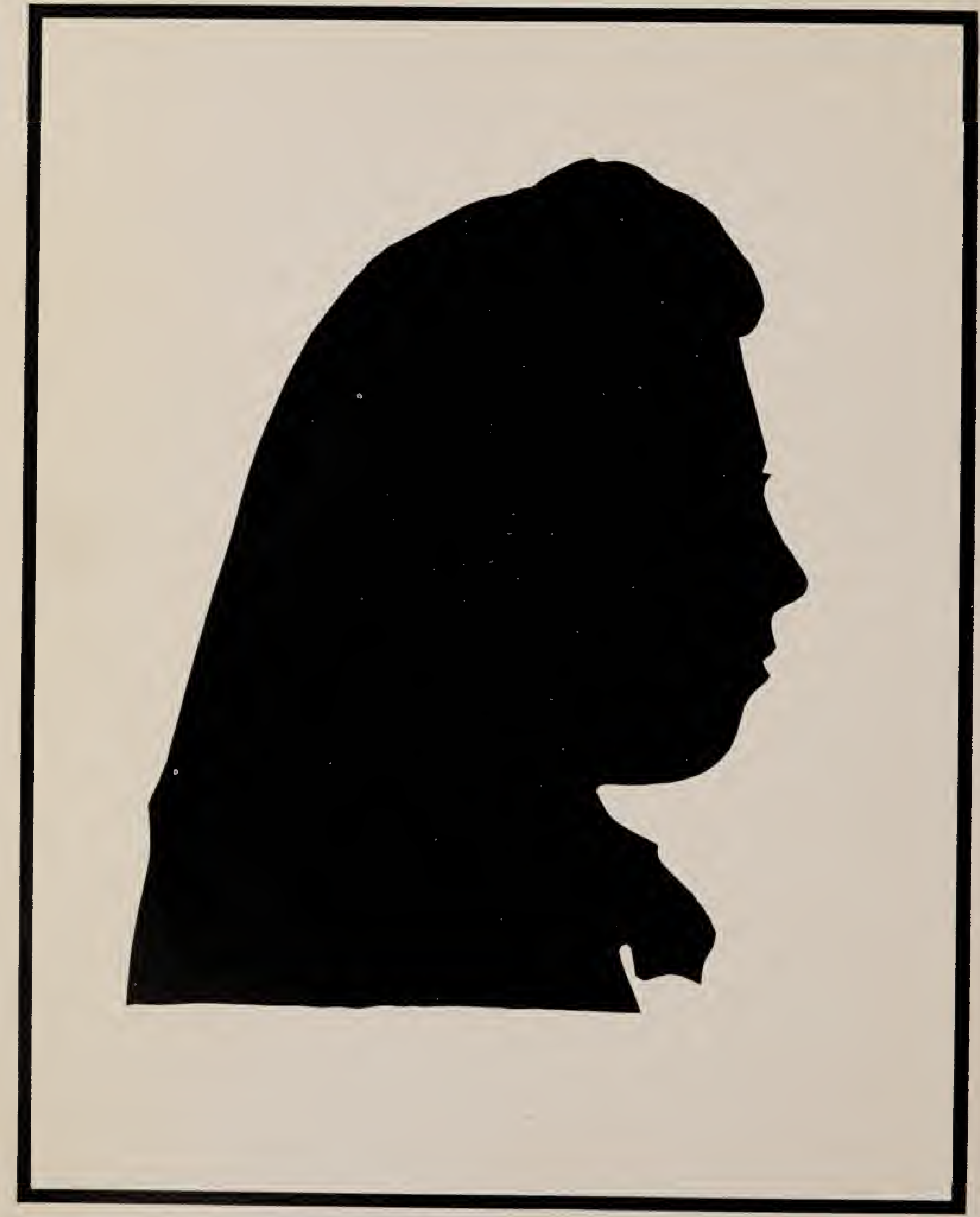
Is trying to secure the bricks his mother needs.

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.8cm. x 15.8cm.

MRS. [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philad[elphi]a, Jan. 2, 1811.

Sends a statement of their account to December 31, 1810, accompanied by New Year's greetings and the hope that Mrs. Ridgely is recovering. [Written after Mrs. Ridgely's death, which occurred Dec. 20, 1810.]

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 32.5cm.



Silhouette Believed to Have Been Made of Ann Ridgely
While She Visited in Wilmington

OTHER CHILDREN OF DR. CHARLES G. RIDGELY

The third generation of the Ridgely family in Delaware was large compared to earlier ones. Of the eight children who survived the early rigors of childhood, three, Nicholas, Charles and Abraham, were of Dr. Ridgely's first marriage to Mary Wynkoop. The children of his second marriage to Ann Moore were: Williamina, Mary, Henry Moore, George Wemyss and Ann Ridgely.

All of the children corresponded with their parents, among themselves, with relatives and with an increasing circle of friends. Such a volume of correspondence involving so many individuals presented a perplexing problem of arrangement. As in other generations, the abstracts of the children's communications with their parents are included with those of the parents. All their letters exchanged among themselves and with relatives or friends are represented by the abstracts in this chapter. The two exceptions to this general statement are the adult correspondence of Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely and that of the Honorable Henry Moore Ridgely, a Member of Congress and a United States Senator. Because of the importance and volume of their letters, separate chapters have been devoted to each of them. For the same reason their biographical sketches are omitted from this chapter. The following brief biographies of the remaining children will provide an insight to their lives.

Charles Ridgely, Jr. (1764-1788) has left a less detailed biography in the family annals than any of his brothers or sisters. The Ridgely Family Bible records his birth on June 24, 1764. His father's letters to the Rev. Charles Inglis refer to the child's satisfactory progress at school, as well as to Dr. Ridgely's anxiety for all his neglected "poor little boys" after their mother's death. Other letters show that Charles, "bred to trade," made a business trip to the Caribbean in the spring of 1785, and in 1787 was considering a voyage to Nova Scotia. Ann (Moore) Ridgely's children adored him, and she herself, writing appreciatively of all her step-sons, remarked that Charles had the "most amiable disposition in the world." In 1787 he was one of the Building Commissioners appointed by the Kent County Levy Court to supervise the building of the new Kent County Court House on Dover Green, now known as the Old State House. The following year, while he was inspecting the construction of the roof and cupola, that part of the structure collapsed, causing injury to twenty persons including Charles Ridgely. On September 20, 1788, a few days after the accident, he died of a fractured skull. He was buried in the family plot in Christ Churchyard, Dover.

The four extant letters to Charles Ridgely, Jr., all of which relate to his mercantile venture of 1785, are from his father and stepmother and are consequently abstracted in an earlier chapter. The folder of his personal papers contains three documents: a form transferring another's bill of credit to his account; an agreement concerning the purchase of wheat from his late father's tenant; and a poem published in memory of young Mr. Ridgely. The memorial appears to have been clipped from the *Delaware Gazette* of about November 1, 1788.

Abraham Ridgely (1765-1811) was educated as a physician with Dr. James Anderson of Chestertown as his preceptor. This practical course of instruction was supplemented by a course of medical lectures in Philadelphia, before taking up a practice in Maryland. While in that state Dr. Ridgely became enamoured of Miss Hester Harris and they were married on February 17, 1788. In 1794 he returned to Dover, rented the Ridgely House on the Green from his father's estate, and practiced his profession in the town for several years. The latter part of his life he spent at Smyrna, in the northern part of Kent County. He was the father of two daughters, Margaretta and Mary Wynkoop Ridgely, both of whom he outlived. Margaretta died an infant in 1799, and Mary, at the age of seventeen, in 1809. His wife, whose difficult temperament was a familiar topic of family comment, survived Dr. Ridgely and their children. Less prominent in public affairs than most of the men in his family, Abraham Ridgely held at first only the office of justice of the peace, but, under Governor Richard Bassett, he served as Secretary of State. He died in March, 1811, and was buried at Dover in the burying ground of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he was a member.

The younger Dr. Ridgely, like his brother Charles, is a lesser figure in the correspondence. The present chapter contains two letters addressed to him, two from him, and one to his wife from their daughter Mary Wynkoop Ridgely, as well as various discussions of his affairs. There is also material relating to Dr. Abraham Ridgely in the correspondence of Dr. Charles and Ann (Moore) Ridgely, Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely and Henry M. Ridgely.

The two youngest children of Dr. Charles Ridgely's first marriage died young. John, who was nine at the time of his death in 1778, is not mentioned in any of these letters. The birth and death of the infant Mary are announced in her father's correspondence of 1772-73.

Williamina Ridgely, eldest child of Dr. Charles and Ann (Moore) Ridgely, was born February 20, 1775. "Miss Willy" was sent at about the age of twelve years to Mrs. Mansell's school at Chestertown, Maryland, and later continued her scholastic and social training in Philadelphia under the care of her cousin Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader. In both instances her younger sister Mary accompanied her. The two girls, however, received much of their education at home. They learned, of course, the graceful accomplishments expected of a well-bred young lady, but they also learned to cook, sew, keep accounts and manage a household. The fact that they were prepared to be useful as well as ornamental sometimes caused surprised comments among relatives and acquaintances. An outstanding event of "Willy's" early womanhood was a trip, in the summer of 1795, to visit her uncle Thomas William Moore, British consul at New Port, Rhode Island. Mary and several cousins were also of the party.

When Williamina was a small child one of her father's students had been Edward Miller, the son of a scholarly Presbyterian minister in Dover. Though he was some fifteen years her senior, at some time during her girlhood a deep attachment formed between them; and, in her late teens, he sought her for his bride. Mrs. Ridgely, however, opposed the match until after her daughter had reached her majority, when she gave a reluctant consent. The wedding date was set for early in 1797; preparations for it were completed; and Dr. Miller, who had recently moved to New York to establish a practice, passed through Philadelphia on his way to Dover for the ceremony. So much the letters tell. But the marriage never took place. Plainly, "Willy's" loyalty to her mother was in some way involved, but the story remains tantalizingly incomplete. About five years later she angrily denied to her mother a rumor that she had been seing "that person" again, or that she ever wished to do so. On what would have been the tenth anniversary of her intended marriage, she penned a few lines, *Retrospect,* grieving over her unwilling surrender of her lover and the barrenness of life without him. Neither she nor Dr. Miller ever married.

The later years of Williamina Ridgely's short life must indeed have been, for the most part, monotonous ones. Except for sixteen months spent in Philadelphia in 1803-04, she seems never to have left Dover for more than a few days at a time. In its malarial climate she rarely enjoyed good health, nor is there any evidence to indicate that she had in the neighborhood a congenial social circle such as her sister Mary enjoyed. During the summer and fall of 1807 she was critically ill, but in the ensuing winter she made an apparently complete recovery. Suddenly on the evening of April 20, 1808, she again was stricken with an illness, some of the symptoms of which suggest appendicitis, and from which she died the following day. Her grave is in the Ridgely plot in Christ Churchyard in Dover.

Williamina Ridgely received forty-eight of the letters abstracted in this chapter and wrote twenty-four. Her brothers and sisters and her cousin Becky Bond were her most frequent correspondents, but there is a scattering of letters to and from other relatives and friends. Among the latter group is an interesting exchange with Mrs. David Meade Randolph of Virginia, whom she met during her summer in Rhode Island. Both the letters she saved and those she wrote give a wealth of information about events and personalities in the Ridgely family as well as among her aunts and cousins, the Dorseys of "Elk Ridge," Maryland; the Bonds, Cadwaladers, Travises and Smiths of Philadelphia; Jane (Moore) Jones; and the Berriens of Georgia. They are filled also with lively comment (not always kind) about mutual acquaintances, books, styles, everyday events and the routine of her life both at "Eden Hill" and in Philadelphia. In addition to the material in this chapter there is a considerable body of Williamina Ridgely's correspondence with her mother in Chapter III. Her personal papers include the poem *Retrospect* mentioned above, a bit of religious verse, lines addressed to her infant nephew Charles George Ridgely, a few bills, notes scribbled during an illness which prevented her from speaking, her obituary and drafts of her tombstone inscription.

Mary Ridgely, the second daughter of Dr. Charles and Ann (Moore) Ridgely, was born August 9, 1777. Her schooling and the general outline of her early life closely paralleled that of her elder sister. The memorable journey to Rhode Island, occasional trips to Philadelphia and, by implication, to "Elk Ridge" near Baltimore, Maryland, were particularly dear to Mary, who was far from content with existence on a farm. She was obviously much happier when she could write of attending the theatre, balls and select parties or being presented in President John Adams' drawing room than when she could only report that "Eden Hill" was running smoothly under her management during her mother's absence. During the months preceeding her brother Henry's marriage in 1803 she kept house for him in the old family home on the Green, and for several years thereafter was a frequent, possibly a constant, member of his family. She was the adoring slave of his young son Charles George Ridgely. Her letters indicate a momentary interest in various ones of the young men among the circle of family friends but betray a deep affection for only one, a Dr. Horsey whose given name never appears. He seems to have died of tuberculosis not long after the last mention of him in August of 1805. In December, 1807, Mary Ridgely was married to Dr. William Winder Morris, a native of Maryland, but at the time of the marriage and for the remainder of his life, a physician in Dover. He is not mentioned in the Ridgely correspondence prior to his entry into the family. Three children born to the couple, William, Anna Maria and Emily Morris, lived to maturity. Isabella Morris, born in 1815, died an infant, and there is some suggestion of other Morris children who did not survive. Mary (Ridgely) Morris herself had reached the age of seventy-seven when she died March 9, 1855. Though throughout her life she was a devout Episcopalian her grave is in the Presbyterian churchyard in Dover, with those of her husband and children.

Mary Ridgely's correspondence as represented in this chapter belongs to the years prior to her marriage and to the first few months following it. She received nine of the letters in this portion of the *Calendar* and wrote twenty-eight. Her cousin Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader was her only correspondent outside the immediate family. Her letters are sprightly and informative, usually long, and contain some of the most detailed accounts of individuals and events in the entire collection. Since her emotional responses were intense and her mode of expression candid, not all her portraits are flattering or even fair, but none lack life and color. The Public Archives Commission owns none of her personal papers. Additional letters from her and comments about her appear in the correspondence of Ann (Moore) Ridgely, Henry M. Ridgely and the children of Henry M. Ridgely.

George Wemyss Ridgely, youngest son of Dr. Charles and Ann (Moore) Ridgely was born April 4, 1781. Like his brother Henry M. he received his elementary schooling in Dover, but his letters prove that the preparation then available in the village failed to teach an intelligent though not very studious lad to compose, write and spell English acceptably by the time he was thirteen. In March, 1794, George Ridgely was entered with Henry at Newark Academy, near Wilmington, Delaware. When the Ridgely boys arrived, the school numbered about thirteen students and was under the direction of Mr. William Thomson, in whose home they lived. The following year the school passed into the hands of the Rev. John Johnson under whom George and Henry studied for about six months longer. In the fall of 1795 they followed Mr. Thomson to Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he had accepted an appointment as Latin master a few months earlier. At Dickinson, George Ridgely was fond of dramatics, took the woman's lead in a student play, got into no mischief serious enough to reach his mother's ears, was reasonably economical, and proved a very indifferent student. Though he had not secured his degree, he left the college in 1797 when his brother was graduated, for his mother had some time since despaired of preparing him for a profession. Throughout the winter of 1797-98 she sought a mercantile apprenticeship for him, but the uncertain business conditions of that year, because of the near war with France, prevented his satisfactory placement. During 1798 and 1799 he appears in the letters as the overseer of his mother's farm while he studied penmanship, mathematics and later navigation in preparation for his intended business career. In the spring of 1799 he applied for and received an appointment as a midshipman in the United States Navy. He sailed from New Castle, Delaware, in December of the same year aboard the *U. S. S. Ganges.* Returning in the late spring of 1800 he transferred to the frigate *l'Insurgente,* then in command of Captain Patrick Fletcher. Though he had friends among his shipmates, found the officers considerate and the vessel more comfortably appointed than the *Ganges* had been, he admitted that he had never learned to "like the life." It appears that he had considered resigning from the service as soon as *l'Insurgente* returned from a three-months' cruise in the Caribbean. But after the vessel had cleared the Virginia Capes on August 8, 1800 and been spoken at sea a few days later all trace of her was lost. The Navy Department in time assumed she had foundered with all hands "in the equinoctual gale of 1800."

Though George Ridgely was a less accomplished correspondent than his brothers and sisters and though relatively few of the letters he received are extant, there are enough samples to reveal one of the most appealing personalties in this entire album of pen-portraits. His was a warmly affectionate nature, deeply concerned with the welfare of his family, his friends, his dogs and horse, and indeed of virtually every living creature about him. In this chapter are six letters he received and three he wrote as well as a number addressed jointly to him and Henry. His personal papers comprise the draft of a letter of inquiry about his naval appointment, a memorandum recording the foaling of his horse "Cub," and a copy of the official report on the fate of *l'Insurgente.*

The youngest child of Dr. Charles and Ann (Moore) Ridgely was a daughter, Ann, born February 12, 1784. She was educated at home until just before her fifteenth birthday, when she was sent to Philadelphia to complete her formal schooling. She remained there but a single quarter. After her return to "Eden Hill" she assumed her share of the management of the household, visited occasionally in the homes of various Wilmington and Philadelphia relatives and friends, and amused herself with needlework, reading, writing and drawing. Like her brother George she was unusually fond of pets, among which her favorites were the cats "Louis" and "Sophia." She was grief-stricken over George's disappearance at sea, for the two had been the closest of friends. She never married, nor is there any indication that she was ever seriously in love. She did, however, express her passing admiration for various handsome young gentlemen of her acquaintance and was once reproved by her mother for giving the appearance of trying to "make a conquest of [her] old friend" Dr. James Tilton, a contemporary of her parents. Ann Ridgely's health was not robust and, at least in the opinion of her family, was further undermined by excessive grief over George's uncertain fate. In the early summer of 1805, hoping to restore her vitality, her mother arranged a visit to Wilmington and Philadelphia friends and relatives. She failed to rally, became critically ill in Germantown at the home of her aunt Mrs. Phineas Bond, and died there August 29, 1805 at the age of twenty-one. She was buried in the yard of Christ Church, Philadelphia.

Ann Ridgely's extensive correspondence with her mother has already been noted. In the present chapter are forty letters she received from brothers, sisters and friends, along with twelve she wrote. Her personal papers not included in the *Calendar* total eleven items of original verse, copies of favorite poems, embroidery designs, her obituary and draughts of her epitaph, and a "profile" tentatively identified as hers.

Of the 198 documents which make up this chapter, 190 were received by a member of the Ridgely family; the rest are drafts or copies of communications they sent. Eighty are letters from one Ridgely to another, a few of which are what they called "partnership letters" written by or addressed to two members of the family. Among the letters involving outsiders a large proportion are to or from aunts or cousins. Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader, her son and daughter-in-law Thomas and Mary Cadwalader, Becky Bond, John and Betsy Travis, Mrs. Williamina S. E. Berrien and her daughter Sarah L. Berrien, Mrs. Jacob Jones, Mrs. Ann Sands and Becky and Susan Hamilton are all identified in the genealogical note prefacing Chapter III. Mrs. Elizabeth Dorsey was Dr. Charles Ridgely's sister ,and Matilda Dorsey one of her eight children.

It is also possible that Sally, Ann, Matilda and A. C[atherine] Wethered, at whose Wilmington home Ann Ridgely was a frequent visitor, were distant relatives. Dyné Wynkoop, apparently a relative of Dr. Ridgely's first wife, was a shipmate of George Ridgely as well as a correspondent of Henry. Sally Banning, whose deceased father had been a well-to-do Kent County merchant and whose step-father was Dr. William McKee, of Kent County and Wilmington, became Mrs. Henry M. Ridgely in 1803. Charity Alford was Sally's cousin.

Of the correspondents not known to be related in any way to the Ridgely family only five indicate no real degree of intimacy with at least one or two of them. Edward Work and E. B. Climson, both of whom wrote to Henry M. Ridgely from what was then the West, were, to judge by the tone of their letters, casual acquaintances. The letters from Peter Robinson and Joseph Richardson, and to . . . Scott concerned business. The group of rather close friends from whom letters have been preserved includes ten individuals. Mrs. David Meade Randolph was a sister-in-law of Thomas Jefferson's daughter, and by birth as well as marriage a member of the distinguished Virginia family. Martha and Jane Rowan were the daughters of Ann Ridgely's landlady and teacher in Philadelphia. A. Eliza George and Hetty Broom, also Ann's friends, belonged to prominent Wilmington families. Another of her correspondents Eliza (sometimes Elizabeth) Wilson, a niece of Caesar Rodney, is not the same individual as Henry M. Ridgely's one-time fiancée, also spoken of with some frequency in letters from his school friends. Thomas Macomb, a schoolmate of George and Henry Ridgely, was the son of a Wilmington merchant, and James Thomson was the son of their Latin master. Moses Montgomery and Alexander Lyon, also friends from Dickinson College, appear to have been Pennsylvanians.

ABSTRACTS

ABRAHAM RIDGELY, New Town, [Penna.?], from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 22, 1787.

Tells his brother that he has been asked to be a candidate for the Council [senate] but that he does not intend to accept. Says local politics overshadow national matters. "From the Convention at Philad[elphi]a we most expect either, permanence and stability, or ruin and misery. Should a tolerable Government be formed, it will be our wisdom to adopt it. Our present establishment is tottering to a dissolution, and nothing could preserve it for a moment but the expectation of a reformation from the convention." Explains why some will oppose the new constitution and gives his views on the political parties. If Abraham has joined the Methodists "from deep conviction" he can pose no objection, but for himself finds "our church" the most satisfactory expression of Christianity.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 15.5cm. x 18.5cm.

ABRAHAM RIDGELY, Student of Medicine, Philadelphia, from [DR.] JAMES M. ANDERSON, Chester Town, Md., Feb. 4, 1788.

Has urged Hessy [Hester Harris] to answer his letters, but "she continues inflexible in this point." Being "rough and plainspoken" he is not a suitable go-between for the easily offended couple and "on this account . . . I talked nothing of love . . ." Anticipates his visit and tells of the progress of Mr. Ringgold, a patient.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23cm.

HENRY MOORE RIDGELY, [Newark, Del.], from MARIA [MARY RIDGELY, Dover], Aug. 6, 1794.

Sends her brother birthday greetings in verse.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.5cm. x 22cm.

GEORGE RIDGELY, New Ark, [Del.], from M[ARY] R[IDGELY, Dover], Sept. 3, 1794.

Both she and their brother's [Abraham Ridgely] wife have been ill. Mentions the death of Miss Killen in Wilmington, births of sons to [Mrs.] John V[ining] and Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett. Refers to George's pets. Betsy Vining is in Dover. Finds it is difficult to send letters between Dover and Newark. Sends poetry for Henry [Ridgely] and complains of his failure to write.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.8cm. x 20.4cm.

GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MISS] MARY RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 15, 1794.

Mrs. Laws recently died, leaving "a fine son." Mentions Mary [W.] Ridgely (daughter of Dr. Abraham), the Nixons, Miss E[lizabeth] Loockerman, the "two Mr. Paca's," George's pets, and a letter from Miss [Elizabeth] Freeman.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 31.5cm.

GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, [Newark, Del.], from [MISS] W[ILLIA]M[IN]A RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 21, 1795.

Old Mr. Gordon is dead; Sarah Taylor has a son Joseph; Mrs. L[avina] Fisher, a daughter Elizabeth Junia; Mr. Batson recently married "Miss Britain of Philadelphia;" and Miss Ann Bassett is expected to marry Mr. [James A.] Bayard. Mr. [Wm.] Garnett is believed dying. Tells of members of the Sykes and Thomson families and brother Abram's [Ridgely] students, Mr. Sudler and Mr. Ralston. Refers to "gold sleeve Buttons," the dog Tarquin, and George's recent letter.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23.5cm.

GEORGE WEMYSS RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, Newark, [Del.], from [MISS] MARY RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 21, 1795.

Mr. . . . Jones and Miss . . . Meeks, Mr. & Mrs. . . . Lober, Mr. and Mrs. . . Warner, French Battle [Battell] and the bride's mother and brothers were the guests at the wedding of Mr. C[ornelius] Battle [Battell] and Miss . . . Many. Christmas was dull in the Ridgely household because of the boys' absence but "the people who are fond of *Equality* have been very gay . . ." Brother Abram [Ridgely] has a new [medical] students, Mr. [James] Ralston from Milford.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, at REV. MR. [JOHN] JOHNSON'S, New-Ark, [Del.], from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 13, 1795.

Nicholas Ridgely, Mr. and Mrs. Ennals, [Richard] and Miss [Mary] Bassett, Miss Bayard, Miss Meeks, Miss Otto and Mr. [Geo.] Dashiell made up the wedding party of Miss [Nancy] Bassett and Mr. [Jas. A.] Bayard. Dr. and Mrs. [Wm.] McKee, Mr. & Mrs. Hillyard, Miss Junia and [Jacob] Killen, Miss Nancy Stout, Dr. [Edward] and Mr. . . . Miller attended Miss [Angelica] Killen and Mr. [Jacob] Stout. Dr. Howes [?[Goldsborough has moved to Cambridge, [Md.] to practice, and Mr. Dashiell, from Duck Creek to "where old Parson [Philip] Reading used to live" near Middleton [sic]. Cousin [James] Wemyss Moore, who recently visited Dover, has a dimple in his chin like George's and resembles several of the Bonds and Smiths. She and Mary hope to accompany him to Rhode Island soon. His only sister, Williamina [Berrien] is "very well married" in Savannah [Georgia]. Betsey Townsend is now "the Belle of Dover." Nancy [Ridgely] had a ball "on her Birth night."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.8cm. x 20cm.

[HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Newark, Del.], from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Dover, Mar. 13, [17]95.

Is sending the purses, for which she could not get proper ribbon "in this place." Billy Garnett died yesterday. Pities his sister. Mother has given permission for her and "Willy" [Ridgely] to accompany "our Cousin Doct[o]r [J. W.] Moore . . . to R[hode] I[sland] to see our Uncle," [Capt. Thos. Wm. Moore, British consul at Newport].

A. L. S. 1 p. 23cm. x 37cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, c/o MR. [WM.] THOMSON, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, New Port, R. I., July 27, 1795.

Finds New York "a pleasant place" and its residents friendly. Dined with "old Mr. [Wm.] Seton," father of Mrs. John Vining, whose family she admired. "Brooklyn [is] a pretty little village (on Long Island)," where she called on "Mrs. [Ann] Sands, a daughter of Aunt [Mrs. Thos. Wm.] Moore's." Newport is very dull, but she likes the Moore family. Describes her uncle, [Thos. Wm. Moore], who acts like their mother but looks like Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond. Met his son William Charles Moore, of Nova Scotia, who greatly resembles George [Ridgely]. Hopes her brothers are "agreeably situated."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, c/o WM. THOMPSON [sic], Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MISS] MARY RIDGELY, New Port, [R. I.], Aug. 6, 1795.

Sends birthday greetings. The French *Medusa* and British *Africa,* both warships, are lying at New Port. Expects an engagement when they sail. May accept an invitation to go aboard the beautiful HMS *Africa.* Mr. . . .Abthought, a recent French prisoner, says he was "very politely" treated by his captors. Alludes to the death of the Dauphin, who some believe was poisoned, and to a religious difference between herself and Henry. Cousin William [Charles] Moore, who closely resembles her own brother George [Ridgely], has left for Nova Scotia. Complains of the weather. Mentions Mrs. Beverige, sister of Mrs. Mifflin of Dover, and Mr. Finch of the *Africa.*

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, c/o MR. [WM.] THOMSON, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, New Port, R. I., Aug. 30, 1795.

Wishes she and Henry would "catch" some of George's and Mary's [Ridgely] "passion for writing." Likes Rhode Island far better than at first, but still thinks the residents very lazy. Has heard of the marriages of "old daddy Waitman" to a young Lewes Town widow a few weeks after his first wife's death, and of Daniel Walker to the widow of [Mr.] Hartshorn within a few weeks after the latter's murder by a Negro.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.4cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 6, 1795.

Acknowledges letters from both his brothers. Reminds them that foreign language study teaches history, government and social customs as well as grammar, and that Latin is still the language of the learned professions. Quizzes them on the source and correctness of the phrase *Patriis virtutibus.* Inquires what subjects Henry is studying, and when he will be graduated. Saw Ross Thompson, Mrs. Thompson's son, at George Town, [Del.] in June. Mrs. [Elizabeth, widow of James] Bellach died recently.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.4cm. x 19.9cm.

HENRY M. and GEORGE W. RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMPSON'S, [sic], Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MISS] MARY RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Nov. 1, 1795.

Describes her stormy voyage home after a six-months' visit in Rhode Island. Spent two nights at "Amboy" [Perth Amboy, N. J.] instead of at New York, fearing travellers from that city might still be quarantined from Philadelphia. Would rather live in New York than any other town she has ever seen. Complains of receiving no letters from the boys or from home. Mentions "Willy" [Ridgely], Mr. [James W.] Moore, Tom Cadwalader's recent severe illness, and her own infected thumb. Cousin Jane Moore is accompanying them. She is "very short, very fat, with lite [sic] hair, grey eyes and a very bad complexion; she is no beauty."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18cm. x 22.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Carlisle, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Dover, June 26, 1796.

Nancy Cadwalader was recently married, Patty Meredith "was to be married to Mr. Reed last even[in]g," and Mr. Clark was taken critically ill shortly before his planned wedding to Miss Briton. Has obtained her mother's consent to visit Elk Ridge, Maryland, traveling with Mr. and Mrs. [Jacob] Jones and Mrs. [Abraham] R[idgely]. Is so eager to go she dreads disappointment. Mr. [Samuel] White has started on a trip to New England. "[John] Vining intends calling his son Ben. If the child were mine I would call it Towzer at once. Tis quite as pretty as Benny, Benny."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Carlisle, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 25, 1796.

Comments on the death of [her cousin Dr. James W. Moore], and her own distaste for birthdays, now that she is grown. Has been in Dover but once since June. Dislikes brief visits, though "a journey I delight in." Mentions the Jones family, Mr. Clayton's visit to Boston, Mr. Seton and the Vinings, Dr. [James] Anderson and his daughter Mrs. Harris, Mr. Ralston, and other friends and relatives. Begs both boys to write soon, "or Mamma will get the—you know what."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY and [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Dover, Sept. 10, 1796.

Williamina writes that the waistcoats are not quite finished, but she will send them soon. Rev. [John] Brush and his wife may visit Carlisle while on a trip to Harrisburg. The [Jacob] Jones family are living "next door to Mr. Wilson."

Mrs. Ridgely adds a note about the boys' winter clothing. Warns against extravagance; in addition to its dangers and inconveniences to the one practicing it, it is generally a mark of selfishness. Hopes her sons spend on "trifling amusements" no time which should be better employed.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 25, 1796.

The waistcoats are finished, worked from patterns Mamma [Mrs. Ann Ridgely] drew, and made up by Mr. Barry according to the latest style. Mrs. Jacob Jones' mother plans to visit Dover this winter. Her father [T. W. Moore] left for England in July. Mr. Collins, Mr. Clayton and Mr. Sipple have returned from trips to Boston. Suggests a visit there. Fears Mr. Sipple will not live until Spring. Refers to his wife and daughter. "The little Terrapine" of which Mamma made a great pet, "tho' she is not famous for such things," recently died and has been preserved in spirits.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.8cm. x 22.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Carlisle, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 15, [17]97.

Comments on the winter's extremely changeable weather, some of it the coldest she has ever known. Tells of their mother's new employee, Griffin Cooper, who replaces [Mr.] Manlove, and the birth of triplets to Mrs. Tom Taylor. Criticizes Jane [Jones] for attending the Millers' ball only a few days after hearing of her cousin's [J. W. Moore] death. Mentions Mrs. [James A.] Bayard and her son Richard Henry [Bayard], "the Gov[ernor Richard Bassett] and Lady," and Miss Bassett. Mrs. Bishop has an infant son.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 26, 1797.

Wishes she could have seen the play given by the Carlisle students. Thinks it probably equalled professional performances she has seen in Philadelphia. Comments acidly and at length on "Miss Vin[in]g's matrimonial disappointment," thinking it odd that the match with Gen. [Anthony] Wayne was so profound a secret during his lifetime. "I confess I am disposed to be uncharitable." Miss Vining's friends say she was formerly betrothed to Col. [John] Laurens, who was killed during the Revolution. Refers to John Hillyard's infant sister, Mr. [Geo.] Dashiell, Tom Cadwalader, Polly Brereton, [Rev.] Mr. [John C.] Brush, and the death of Mr. [Philip] Reading.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Carlisle, Penna., from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 16, 1797.

Encloses money Henry asked for, emphasizing the difficulty Mamma [Mrs. Ann Ridgely] had in securing cash and insisting upon economy. Mamma is ill as a result of sitting at an open window to direct the trimming of some trees. Is pleased to have a copy of Dr. Davidson's *Geography,* and would like to obtain Humphrey's *Poems.*

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 23.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, [Carlisle], Penna., from [MISS] ANN RIDGELY and [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, April 2, 1797.

Ann writes that their mother is improving but is still weak. Mentions Jane [Jones], her own sisters, and [Negro] Caesar's infant son George Henry, named in honor of the Ridgely boys.

Mrs. Ridgely adds a note assuring her sons that she has almost recovered from an attack of pleurisy which at one stage she feared would be fatal. Offers a prayer for her children. To see them all "respectable" adults has long been the sole goal of her life.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.7cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Carlisle, Penna., from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, May 3, 1797.

Refuses to believe the report that Harry has been spending much time in taverns, "often drank strong liquor, and frequently joined in giving Balls which cost each person from a dollar to ten shillings the night." Urges him to deny it at once if he can, for the news has prostrated Mamma, who had just come down stairs after four months' serious illness. "Before it is too late rise superior to all vice, and remember your family and friends." Will be pleased to have Dr. Davidson's *Epitome of Geography.* Is enjoying *The World Displayed,* in eight volumes, containing "travels collected by Smart, Goldsmith and Johnson." Charles Goldsborough recently died, and Preston Young's son was killed in a thunderstorm. Susan Loockerman is to marry Mr. Stoops of Maryland, brother of Mrs. Neill. Mentions Mr. [Jas.] Ralston, John Hillyard, and a favorable newspaper account of "the young Gentlemen of Dickinson College."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18.7cm. x 22.5cm.

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Carlisle, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, [Dover], May 4, 1797.

"With a bleeding heart" has heard that her idolized brother has strayed from the path of virtue and spends his evenings in drunkenness and dancing. "The stings of conscience will be too much for you to bear when you reflect that your conduct has sent an affectionate Parent and Sisters sorrowing to the grave." Pleads with him to return to the ways of rectitude and to practice charity. Mentions Mr. [James] Ralston, Mr. Sykes and Mr. Robinson.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.7cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Carlisle, [Penna.], from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, May 25, 1797.

A bison was recently on display in Dover; "Mamma [Mrs. Ann Ridgely] . . . thinks it the most terrible looking thing she ever beheld, but was in such haste to get out of the stable she had not a good view of it." Complains of the postmaster's recent carelessness, and of the discomfort of the present style of wearing tied cravats, which she is following "in deference to other people's follies." Mr. [Geo.] Dashiell has started the study of medicine. Comments on Parson Jno. Wiltbank who recently married Miss Cooper after many unsuccessful courtships of others. Thinks the President's [John Adams] speech "beautiful." Asks her brother what his colt is to be called. Refers to John Hillyard and Mr. [James] Ralston.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Carlisle, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Dover, May 28, [17]97.

Has recently read *Camilla,* which she enjoyed as much as any novel. She is not especially fond of them. Is delighted with his reply to her last letter, and thinks him wise to frequent "genteel company" at every opportunity.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, June 17, 1797.

Their mother is considering "taking a journey after harvest," and Mrs. [Abigail] Hamilton is expected to visit soon. Recently attended a Quaker meeting at the State House which was so crowded it was extremely uncomfortable.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 24cm.

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY, at MR. [WM.] THOMSON'S, Carlisle, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Dover, July 2, [17]97.

Acknowledges Henry's reproof for her recent carelessness in spelling. She rarely has time any more to consult a dictionary while writing. Mr. [Samuel] White took his nephew Mr. Polk and young Mr. Rogers to Princeton instead of to Dickinson College as planned. Mrs. Hamilton will soon visit. Because Mr. Batson recently contracted smallpox in Philadelphia, an epidemic is expected in Dover. His child has been inoculated and others probably will be. All in the Ridgely household have had smallpox, so their harvest will not be interrupted. Miss Bayard "has been deprived of her senses." Mentions Mrs. Wharton, Mrs. Gordon's reported marriage to Mr. Levick, "the little Book pedler," the Vining family and Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett's infant.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.7cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY and [MRS.] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Dover, Aug. 20, 1797.

Mentions the clothing recently sent. There is almost no illness at Dover, though an infectious fever has appeared in Philadelphia and dysentery at Wilmington and Baltimore. Jane's [Jones] son William is a healthy baby and resembles his grandfather. Is surprised Miss Reed thinks George and Nancy [Ridgely] are alike, since "the latter is very fat."

Mrs. Ridgely repeats her inquiry about C[harles] Smith's terms. Sends money to pay bills, the size of which disturbs her.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.7cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Carlisle, Penna., from THOMAS MACOMB, Wilmington, [Del.], Oct. 9, 1797.

[A schoolmate] describes a thoroughly uncomfortable trip home in the stage. Heard at Lancaster that the yellow fever was bad in Wilmington, but found when he arrived only two suspected cases, those of Nehemiah Tilton and a child. Writes of [Dr. James Tilton] and several Carlisle friends. Asks for copies of . . .*Dullness,* Davidson's *Geography,* "and a copy of the College Degree."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 20.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, near Dover, from T[HOMAS] MACOMB, Wilmington, [Del.], Nov. 11, 1797.

Henry's trunks have just arrived from Downing's Town with an outrageous freight charge of $4.00 which Thomas' father settled for $2.00. Sends the key by Mr. Lee of Dover. Put *The Secular Romance* and *Count Roderic's Castle* in the trunk as directed.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 30cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MA]S I. MACOMB, Wilmington, [Del.], Nov. 12, 1797.

Hopes Henry's trunks and trunk key sent the day previous by Mr. Lee arrived safely. Thinks he, like Henry, will study law, but doubts his family would allow him to go to Lancaster. He is not certain he wishes to, for he finds some of the girls in Wilmington nearly as attractive as his Carlisle favorite. Writes facetiously on this subject.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS] MARY RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER], Philad[elphi]a, Nov. 30, 1797.

Appreciates Mary's thoughtfulness in keeping up the correspondence during Mrs. Ridgely's illness, about which she is very anxious. Invites the older girls to visit as soon as their mother recovers sufficiently. Had difficulty finding the type of linen the Ridgelys ordered. Quotes from a letter from Mrs. [Elizabeth] Kershaw, (née Freeman). Sends a gift of candied ginger, lemons, oranges and tamarinds.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 22cm. x 33.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, near Dover, from THOMAS I. MACOMB, Wilmington, [Del.], Dec. 1, 1797.

Is no longer tempted to go to Lancaster to study, since he finds the society of a certain Wilmington girl so very delightful. Doubts that Henry will keep his resolve not to visit the girls in Lancaster, "because I know you are too fond of them to leave off visiting them all at once." Refers to Mr. [Thos.] Rumsey's expected marriage, and to Dr. [James] Sykes.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from ALEX[ANDE]R LYON, Carlisle, [Penna.], Dec. 12, 1797.

Is glad Henry is coming to Lancaster, and hopes he and their friend Moses [Montgomery] can be induced "to tell tales on each other." Fears, however, that he will be "out of his element," though more studious than usual, among the unsociable Lancastrian ladies. Inquires whimsically about the curious object Henry saw in Wilmington. The President of the U[nion] P[hilosophical] Society is having difficulty controlling some of the mere "children" recently admitted to membership. Thinks [Thomas] Stockton is like [Thomas] Macomb in being gifted, but lazy. Tells about preparations for the plays *Tragedy of Albina* and *The Mock Doctor,* and of his disappointment in Stockton's dramatic ability.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 22.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, near Dover, from THOMAS I. MACOMB, Wilmington, [Del.], Dec. 27, 1797.

Inquires about Moses [Montgomery]. Tells of a trip upcountry, on the return from which a pair of torn breeches complicated an otherwise promising evening with two attractive young ladies. Has heard from Sprigg who had "rec[eive]d about 500 Comp[limen]ts from Miss Montgomery and . . .

was sorry he had ever seen her." Has been told "Agnew and Maginly were the only Gallants Carlisle afforded since you left it."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 20.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, [Penna.], from JAMES THOMSON, Plumley, [Penna.], Jan. 11, 1798.

Had a cold ride up in the stage but arrived "before the storm became violent." Is having pleasant sleighing trips. Would like two penknives like the enclosed pattern. Gives directions for locating the ironmonger's shop in Lancaster which sells them, and for sending the knives to him. Mentions John [Thomson?], Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Frazier.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.8cm. x 20.3cm.
[Encloses a pattern of penknife, silver and green, price 2 shillings 2 pence, 11.7 cm. (open) x 1.3 cm.]

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Lancaster, [Penna.], from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Jan. 13, [17]98.

Is glad her brother arrived safely despite the bad weather. Recently attended *Abroad and at Home,* her first time at the theatre during the season. Has been out little since her arrival but will soon attend a "Grand Ball" at Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett's "and on Friday I attend the Drawing room of Mrs. [John] Adams." At a recent small gathering at her own home, Mrs. Blodgett left her guests and went to the theatre.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.4cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY and [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 21, 1798.

Ann [Ridgely] writes that she is hurt by Henry's failure to write. Mother and "Willy" [Ridgely] are pleased that Mr. [Charles] Smith keeps up "the old names" by calling his daughter Williamina. Mary [Ridgely] is busy with the gaieties of Philadelphia. George [Ridgely] expects to entertain "Messrs. Robinson, Wooten and the two Claytons." He is acting as overseer on the farm and greatly enjoys calling the hogs even though it gets him up early in the morning. Jane's [Jones] baby is well. Dr. [Joshua] Clayton was appointed Senator in [John] Vining's place, much to Dr. [James] Sykes' disappointment.

Mrs. Ridgely adds a note about her son's boarding place, his conduct, and his fellow-boarder. Refers to Mr. [Charles] Smith, Mrs. [Abigail] Hamilton, [Dr. James] Sykes, Miss Loockerman, Miss McClements, Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Cokeley, Mrs. Montgomery, and Mrs. [Mary] Rusmier. Hopes to place George soon as a merchant's apprentice. Reproves Henry for failure to write to his brother who is "lost" without him. Worries about the "different kind of life" Mary is now leading in Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from T[HOMAS] I. MACOMB, Wilmington, Del., Jan. 26, [17]98.

Has given up the idea of studying law and has settled upon becoming a merchant. Has little social life, though he has found one girl who is always congenial. Copies the casts of plays recently given at Dickinson College. Mr. [Wm.] Thomson was even more violently opposed to the performance this year than before, but "if I had got a part all the Thomsons in the world would not have kept me from acting without they had tied me. What say you?"

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.8cm. x 20cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, at MR. KERR'S, Lancaster, [Penna.], from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Jan. 31, [17]98.

Had a delightful time at the Assembly, dancing the whole evening with good partners. Has "been at Mrs. [John] Adams's." Did not enjoy the Ball [at Mrs. Samuel Blodgett's]. Has seen only two plays, but will soon attend *"Wives As They Were, and Maids As They Are."* Is hurt by Henry's failure to write. Miss [Harriett] Sykes is not yet married. Mentions Mr. [Samuel] White and "Miss P." between whom there seems to be "a little miff somehow or other."

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.3cm. x 22.5cm.

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY, at MR. KERR'S, Lancaster, [Penna.], from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 18, 1798.

Names the twenty-four guests at the wedding of Mr. [Thos. E.] Rumsey and Miss [Harriett] Sykes. Mr. [Thos.] Ellison and Miss [Harriett] Rumsey are to be married. [Wm.] Collins and [Ann] Bellach were recently married privately despite the disapproval of the bride's father and the fact of her engagement for over a year to "her cousin Dr. [James] Tilton." Mr. Miller and [Elizabeth] Loockerman have set March 1 as their wedding date. "Poor Tom Tilton is now in jail, quite mad." Cannot believe love for Miss [Junia] Killen is the cause. Mrs. Johnson's sister, Molly Reed, is engaged to Mr. Boyd. [Samuel] White reports many weddings among their Philadelphia acquaintances. Nicholas Ridgely has purchased a farm eight miles from Dover, for which their mother suggested the name "Somerville." Misses having Henry to make her pens. Mentions Mary [Ridgely], Miss Brown, Mr. Warner, Mr. Robinson and F. Clayton.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, [Penna.], from JAMES THOMSON, Plumly, [Penna.], Feb. 18, 1798.

Writes of excellent sleighing, a letter from Henry, and a chance to have his requested penknife delivered. Refers to the towns of Paoli and Westchester, [Penna.]. Says, "When you and I are made Members of Congress we will endeavor to support our own Character & that of our nation better than some of the now Members."

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.6cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from THO[MAS] MACOMB, Wilmington, Del., Feb. 18, 1798.

Tells of the marriages of Tho[ma]s E. Rumsey to Harriett Sykes, Thomas Ellison of New York to Harriett Rumsey of Wilmington, and Wm. Collins to Ann Bellach. The last-mentioned match was a great surprise.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 34cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, [Penna.], from ALEX[ANDE]R P. LYON, Carlisle, [Penna]., Feb. 22, 1798.

Writes banteringly of Henry's resolution to avoid the company of ladies during his law course. Asks for a certified copy of John Parker's will. Alludes to copying verses from Dryden for Henry. "A dashing dance at Tommy Foster's" is planned for Washington's Birthday. Mentions [Thomas] Macomb, Moses [Montgomery], and the death of Kitty Thompson.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 20.5cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, [Penna.], Feb. 25, 1798.

Refers to his own studies. Hopes Ann will practice composition diligently, imitating their mother and standard authors, for "Nothing can show a woman to more advantage than writing well." Has heard from all the family but George [Ridgely]. Did not attend the "Grand Ball here on the 22nd Inst." Has heard Miss [Harriett] Rumsey and Mr. [Thos.] Ellison were married [Feb.] 12th.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18cm. x 22.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Mar. 3, 1798.

Complains of not hearing from Henry. Refers to the marriages of Miss [Harriett] Sykes and Mr. [Thos. E.] Rumsey, Mr. [Wm.] Collins and Miss [Ann] Bellach, and Mr. Miller and Miss [Elizabeth] Loockerman. Describes a ball in honor of Washington's birthday at which "we had seven sets on the floor at once," and to which Mr. [U. S. Rep. Matthew] Lyon was refused admittance since "none but gentlemen" were welcome. Plans to attend the Assembly and has numerous other engagements.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.8cm. x 22.7cm.

HENRY RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] W[ILLIA]M[IN]A RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 11, 1798.

Tells of Miss [Elizabeth] Loockerman's wedding to Mr. Miller and several dinners in her honor. Has heard [Jacob] Jones has rented a farm from Mrs. Sipple, who has returned to her father. Is pleased at the general observance of Washington's birthday. Writes of George [Ridgely], her sisters and their mother, and Miss Medford.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Mar. 19, 1798.

Plans to return home soon, after a pleasant visit with Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader and her children. Speaks of various social engagements, but insists she is not very fond of them. Hopes George [Ridgely] can be satisfactorily placed with a merchant who can keep him sufficiently occupied, but difficulty with the French makes business bad. Fears war. The ship *New Jersey* was recently captured with sons of Mr. Gibson and Mr. McCall aboard. Comments concerning the report that [Jacob] Jones had taken the Sipple farm: "Poor unsettled creature! Tis a pity when people don't know their own minds five minutes together." Asks about a reported earthquake at Lancaster. Mentions the approaching marriage of "the little ugly mortal" Chev[alier] Yerugo [Yrujo, Spanish Minister to the United States] to Miss [Sarah] McKean. Mr. [Jasper] Yates speaks well of Henry as a student.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from THO[MAS] MACOMB, Wilmington, [Del.], Mar. 20, 1798.

Mentions the Miller-Loockerman marriage, the death of George McCall, two recent balls in Wilmington, a visit to West Chester, and the sensational case of "the Harrisburg lasses." Hopes to visit Carlisle in the fall with Mr. Gardener who is going on to Ohio. Complains of Moses' [Montgomery] failure to write and of having "very little acting here."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from THO[MAS] MACOMB, Wilmington, [Del.], Mar. 30, 1798.

Has introduced F[rench] McMullan to Sprigg, as the person most able to introduce him to the ladies of Carlisle "since Moses and you have left." Considers going for a while to the farm in Kent [County] "to get a little insight into agricultural life," and hopes for a visit from Harry either there or in Wilmington. Mentions Moses [Montgomery] and Mr. [Francis] Gardener, the brother of F[rench] McMullan.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, April 1, 1798.

Discusses plans for going home, possibly with Mr. [Jas. A.] Bayard after court adjourns at New Castle. President [John Adams] was thrown from his horse, but fortunately not injured. Has seen him "at the Drawing Room" since the accident. Attended a hot and crowded tea party at the "Chev[alie]r de Frirris'." Dreads the prospect of a ball at Liston's as "tis too late in the season for such frolicks." The [Jacob] Jones family have moved into the Sipple house. "They are people who would always require a guardian."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, [Penna.] , from JAMES THOMSON, Plumley, Penna., April 6, 1798.

Supposes Henry is now the captive of the lovely ladies of Lancaster, despite his resolutions. Alludes to his Carlisle favorite. Mentions Moses [Montgomery] and [Mr.] Geer.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15.5cm. x 20.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, [Dover], April 8, 1798.

Tells of a robbery at Huston's store, a visit from Mr. [John] Dickinson, a man-of-war in the [Delaware] Bay, the birth of Mrs. Caverly's daughter, and an expected new parson, Mr. Reese of New Castle. Jane [Jones] is pleased with moving to the Sipple farm, rented for £90 per year. Asks about a school for girls at Lancaster. George [Ridgely] will not consider studying law. Their mother is pleased with the excellent reports Mr. [Charles] Smith and Mr. [Jasper] Yates give of Henry.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. [THOMAS] DORSEY, [Elk Ridge, Md.], from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY, Dover], April 21, 1798.

Tells why she has not visited her aunt. Mentions her trip to Rhode Island. Refers to her two brothers, Henry studying law at Lancaster and George about to be placed with a merchant in Philadelphia or to go to sea.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 32.5cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, April 27, 1798.

Sends cotton and silk stockings of the most fashionable kind. Continued seizure of vessels by the French paralyzes trade. The President is said to have received a warning of a planned attack on his home and an attempt to burn Philadelphia. Describes a recent destructive fire. *Washington's March* is the popular tune of the day. The Federalists are gaining, and "all the demoe's are changed." Thinks "French Demo[s] . . . are not fit to live." Tells of social engagements, plans to return home, George's [Ridgely] prospects with Mr. [Peter] Blight, and a skirmish between a Frenchman and the crew of an English vessel. Speaks of long walks or horseback rides before breakfast.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.4cm. x 22.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from THO[MAS] MACOMB, Wilmington, [Del.], April 27, 1798.

Gives news of school friends, mentioning [Mr.] Frazer, [Thos.] Stockton, [Moses] Montgomery, A[lexander] Lyon, [Mr.] Guthrie and [Mr.] Gleason. Refers to a sensational criminal case in Harrisburg. Dr. [Chas.] Nesbitt [sic] and Mr. [Wm.] Thomson are improving after recent serious illnesses.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from A[LEXANDER] LYON, [Carlisle, Penna., c. April, 1798].

Acknowledges receipt of a will he had requested. Saw French McMullan during his stay in Carlisle, but did not meet him. Remarks facetiously that he thought it more prudent since the visitor was "a young Sampson" and "French both in name & Politics." Teases Henry about having "a Master" and speaks of Carlisle's sociability.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.8cm. x 20.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, May 9-13, 1798.

Is regretfully preparing to go home in a few days, accompanied either by Mr. [James A.] Bayard or George [Ridgely]. Has lately found the city increasingly attractive and would "rather live here on bread and water than give up the society I enjoy here." Mentions long horseback rides, Tom Cadwalader's improved health, a rumor that Philadelphia is to be burned by saboteurs "tonight" [May 9], another that the British have captured forty French transports on their way to America, and tells of duels between Mr. Jones and Mr. Livingston and Harry Nixon and [Mr.] Darby.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY and [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, May 10, 1798.

Hopes George [Ridgely] may be placed with Mr. [Peter] Blight, as the situation is an excellent one. He refuses to consider studying law. Mary [Ridgely] recently attended the theatre when President Adams was present and enthusiastically cheered, while the "Federal Song" was three times repeated by the audience. Describes the Methodist meeting at Dover called in response to the President's proclamation of a "fast day." The sermon was "much in the political way," with patriotic hymns, and Captain [John] Vining's militia company in the congregation. Refers to "an address to the President" sent from the neighborhood of Dover, and to another from the young men of Philadelphia. Thinks "even the women and children might be allowed to become patriots" at such a time. Mentions the forthcoming marriage of Miss Custus [sic] to the only son of the wealthy Charles Carrol of Maryland.

Mrs. Ridgely adds a note explaining a delay in sending stockings and shirts to Henry. An inflammation of the eyes prevents her wearing spectacles comfortably, yet she cannot see without them.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, [Penna.], May 21, 1798.

Has recently seen several former schoolmates. Repeats news they gave him of Dickinson College and Carlisle friends. "Lancaster affords nothing worth telling." Acknowledges recent letters from the family.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.8cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from JAMES THOMSON, Plumley, [Penna.], May 26, 1798.

Is indignant over Tom's [Macomb] recent political outburst: "Now when . . . the Pres[ident, John Adams] and his Collegues, Curse light upon them for it, have got us upon the brink of a War, he must proclaim a Fast for us to get clear of it." Inquires if Henry is going to Commencement in September. A student from South Carolina has died at Dickinson College of smallpox while two others are recovering. Mentions John [Thomson?].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 15.4cm. x 19cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Dover, June 18, 1798.

"Wou[l]d to Heav[e]n I was a Man or that it was customary for the female world to shoulder a Musket and march in defense of their Country!" Writes enthusiastically of war preparations, of the companies in which her friends in Philadelphia are enrolled, and of the glories of being a soldier. Supposes Henry has joined a company. "Everybody here . . . even Brother N[icholas]" wears a black cockade. Speaks contemptuously of Alexander Braning, an Englishman, who is to take the name of his bride Miss Bingham.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 22cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, [Penna.], from A[LEXANDER] P. LYON, Carlisle, [Penna], June 19, 1798.

Denies he is in love, or even lazy about letter writing. Mentions a letter to Tom [Macomb], the murder of a family in the neighborhood by a girl jealous of one of the daughters, "a little spouting" planned for the 4th of July, and a lottery ticket on which the purchase money is to be refunded. Uses a "bombastical" complimentary close he believes surpasses Tom's latest effort. Notes in a postscript that his letter missed the mail and so must wait a week for the next.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 20.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY and [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, June 24, [17]98.

Ann writes that Dover is very dull, with politics the only interest. Lt. James Many is raising a company of troops. Singing the *President's March* is a favorite pastime in the Ridgely household. Mentions Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and their small son. Adds in a postscript that mother will not yet permit her to address her letters on the outside, but she does so on the inside for practice.

Mrs. Ridgely calls her son's attention to the similarity between the President's [Adams] advice to the Dartmouth students and her own to him [on the subject of enlistment].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Dover, July 12, 1798.

Tells of the military companies to which her Philadelphia friends belong and inquires about the presentation of standards to Henry's company in Carlisle. Is convinced no troop will be raised in Kent County "unless the name of Washington 'again in arms' should rouse . . . the lifeless, insensible crew." A dinner in [John] Vining's field on July 4th ended in a fight in his militia company and several resignations. Thinks "our Arria" [a slave] could have written better poetry than *The Aliens,* by Congressman Marshall, recently sent by Mrs. Cadwalader with *The Cannibal's Progress* which she has not yet read. Mentions [Peter] Porcupine [Wm. Cobbett], the [Jacob] Jones family, Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely, Jim Clayton and his "cousin Charles," James Many's commission in the Army, and "Capt. [Stephen] Ducater's" capture of the first French privateer.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.3cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from JAMES THOMSON, Plumley, [Penna.], July 12, 1798.

Is delighted at Washington's appointment as Lt.-General and Commander-in-Chief. Hopes his emergence from retirement will silence "those stiled Democrats." Inquires about [George] Wemyss [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15cm. x 19cm.

HARRY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, July 14, 1798.

Admired the addresses made at the presentation of flags by the ladies of Lancaster to the military companies there. Wonders about "device and mottoes" on the colors. Mentions a fencing accident to Charles Clayton, the death at George Town, Md., of Mrs. Stoops (née Susan Loockerman) and the remarriage of Sally Goldsborough's father [Charles Goldsborough] to "widow Stevens," a wealthy woman but "not his equal in birth," of whom his family disapproved. Jacob, Jane and William Jones are visiting in Brooklyn, where Jane will see "her sister [Rachel] Campbell (from Nova Scotia)" for the first time in seven years. Alludes to [General] Washington's expected arrival in Philadelphia. Is annoyed with the glowing newspaper accounts of a dinner in [John] Vining's field on July 4, commenting: "You know Vining as well as I do, and I have no doubt the Toasts were made—after the company had dispersed; they were very pretty to be sure, but nothing of the sort ought to be printed unless it actually happened."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, [Penna.], from EDW[ARD] WORK, Canococheague, [Penna.], July 27, 1798.

Has just returned from a trip to the Ohio and almost to Lake Erie. Describes the country. Has decided to take up the practice of law at Meadville, and to apply for an appointment as State's Attorney if a new county is formed at the next legislature. Speaks of several girls he met in the West, particularly Theresa Bartlett, and of those at Carlisle. Reports much "French" sentiment in the West. Wearing of cockades to indicate political preferences is not yet common in his section.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 32.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY and [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, July 29, 1798.

Ann [Ridgely] writes of the Jones family, Mrs. Jones' sisters Mrs. [Rachel] Campbell and Mrs. [Ann] Sands, and Nat Sykes. Admired the toasts reported drunk "in [John] Vining's field on the Fourth of July," and the mottoes on several of the flags presented to military companies. George [Ridgely] considers joining Macpherson's Blues when he goes to Philadelphia. "Everybody almost has a Black Cockade, even the Methodists." Will send him Fennel's poem on Washington's acceptance of the Army command.

Mrs. Ridgely adds a note concerning finances, the extremely warm weather, and excellent fruit crop. Asks her son to write often to George and Ann. Is much concerned over Dr. [John] Laws' failing health, for she refuses to call professionally upon [her stepson, Dr.] A[braham] R[idgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, Penna., from JAMES THOMSON, Plumley, [Penna.], Aug. 14, 1798.

Thinks "the outrageous & infamous Speech of [Edward] Livingston [in opposition to the Alien and Sedition Acts] more worthy of a halter than a seat in Congress." Considers [Albert] Gallatin equally treasonable though more discreet. Mentions "the very elegant Address of the Students of Dickinson College to the President and his Answer." Defends the

President [Adams] against the charge of loving "Pomp and Ceremony." Points to his private departure from the Capitol, though many admirers wished to accompany him "to some Distance," as an instance of his modesty.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 15cm. x 18.9cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, near Dover, from THO[MAS] M[ACOM]B, [Wilmington, Del.], Aug. 20, 1798.

Is amazed that Henry returned to Dover by way of Philadelphia during the yellow fever season. Would not have stayed overnight there "for half the City almost." Expresses intense fear of the disease, for four of about eight cases in Wilmington have ended fatally. Cannot attend Commencement because of business engagements. Alludes to Mr. [Wm.] Thomson and the Senior class at Dickinson. Is much confined by being his [father's] only clerk.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.8cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Lancaster, [Penna.], from A[LEXANDER] P. LYON, Carlisle, [Penna.], Aug. 26, 1798.

Members of the U[nion] P[hilosophical] S[ociety] cannot find the seal. Asks if Harry [Ridgely] or [Thomas] Macomb know who was given custody of it. Speaks of Commencement preparations. Hopes Harry can attend.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.8cm. x 20.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from M[OSES] MONTGOMERY, Lancaster, [Penna.], Sept. 22, [17]98.

Sympathizes with Henry's illness but hopes he will return to Lancaster in time to attend Commencement at Dickinson. Refers to the ladies of Carlisle. A few refugees recently arrived from [Philadelphia] have died at Lancaster of yellow fever, but there is no fear of an epidemic. Is grieved to hear of the deaths of [Thomas] McComb's mother and sister. Adds that [James] Thomson reports "our good, our dear, McComb, is dead."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.3cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from A[LEXANDER] P. LYON, Carlisle, [Penna.], Sept. 29, 1798.

Offers to deliver letters between Henry and Betty Wilson, who was bitterly disappointed by his failure to attend Commencement. Implies the existence of an engagement between them. Reproves him for reported attentions to Miss Yeates. Mentions Commencement activities, plans for "our Society," the marriage of Miss Montgomery to Davis Harris, and Thomas Stockton's interest in Miss Polly Greer. Stockton, too lazy to compose his own Commencement address, used one from "the porcupine paper." Is delighted that the report of [Thomas] Macomb's death proved unfounded. A company of forty or more has been enlisted near Carlisle. October 1, 1798 adds a postscript explaining that previous letters were misdirected because he has just learned Henry has returned permanently to Dover.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.6cm. x 34cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, near Dover, from DYNE WYNKOOP, Marine Camp, [near Philadelphia], Oct. 31, 1798.

Wishes to open a correspondence with Henry, and would also be pleased to hear from Mr. [John] V[inin]g. Has been in camp since leaving Dover; now finds it uncomfortably cold sleeping in a tent. Comments on the surprising cleanliness of [Philadelphia's] deserted streets.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from M[OSES] MONTG[OMERY], Lancaster, Penna., Nov. 9, 1798.

Is relieved to learn that T[homas] Macomb is still alive. Writes banteringly of mutual acquaintances among the ladies, of whom he has not seen a great deal since Henry left. Suggests that their friends suppose Henry is engaged to Miss [Elizabeth] Wilson of Carlisle.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 20.9cm.

GEO[RGE] WEMYSS RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN TRAVIS, Philadelphia, Dec. 7, 1798.

Has twice interviewed Mr. [Peter] Blight [on the subject of George's mercantile apprenticeship]. At a second meeting he stated definitely that, because of "the gloomy prospect of business," he could engage no more young men "in his Counting-House." Mr. Travis cannot encourage George "in the expectation of going there in the Spring."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, from D[YNE] WYNKOOP, Sloop-of-War *Delaware,* off New Castle, [Del.], Dec. 11, 1798.

Is leaving for an extended cruise in the Caribbean. Plans to visit cousin J[ohn] Vining in Dover on his return.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, 29 Harmony Court, Philadelphia, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 24, 1799.

Apologizes for the delay in opening the correspondence with her younger sister. Hopes Ann's failure to mention "the useful branches of education" does not indicate neglect of them. Stresses the importance of arithmetic. Refers to Mrs. Laws' wedding, with an uncomplimentary comment about Mr. and Mrs. [John] Vining. Speaks of the Jones family, Mrs. [James] Bayard, the prospect of receiving articles ordered from Philadelphia, and of Ann's cats "Louis" and "Sophia." Asks if the girls at Mrs. Rowan's enjoy "hops' on leisure evenings as she did when at school.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Mar. 24, [17]99.

Has received letters from "Willy" [Ridgely] and their mother, but from none of the rest of the family. She has just had her ears pierced and is remaining home from church to avoid all chance of taking cold.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, 29 Harmony [Court], Philadelphia, from MISS W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, April 4, 1799.

Asks for "a dozen lbs." of powder, an ounce of thread No. 50-58, a "pair of black shoes with heels," and "sharp points" from Palmers on Chestnut Street. Worsted will do, but prefers morocco. Refers to the birth of Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely's daughter [April 3], and to George's [Ridgely] eighteenth birthday. Wants Mrs. Cadwalader reminded of Miss Seward's *Monody on Major Andre*. Is sending "four sweet peas . . ., a sweet, pretty flower . . . [which] spreads a good deal" for Mrs. Gore. Inquires about Mrs. [Williamina] Pawling and her children.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18cm. x 22.6cm.

MISS MARY RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Philadelphia, May, 1799].

Is delighted at the prospect of seeing Mary [Ridgely] later in the month. Adds an account of Nancy's [Ridgely] expenses, and praises the girl's ability in drawing. Refers to her own two children [Tom and Fanny Cadwalader].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 32cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from MOSES MONTGOMERY, Cantwell's Bridge, [Del.], May 14 [1799].

Has only recently returned from serving with his troop in Northampton County. Describes the trip, admitting that he found surrounding and breaking open houses by night to carry off the men a most distasteful assignment. The girls Henry knew at [Lancaster] are well. Mentions Miss E[lizabeth] Wilson, Mrs. Miller and the Misses Calhoon, of Carlisle, and other friends.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 31.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from A[LEXANDER] P. LYON, Carlisle, [Penna.], June 3, 1799.

Defends President Adams' course in sending a minister to France. Thinks Porcupine [Wm. Cobbett] misguided in "railing out against this appointment." Sally Calhoun recently died, and there have been several marriages among their acquaintances. Mentions Miss B[etty] Wilson. The U[nion] P[hilosophical] Society has greatly deteriorated.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 19.4cm. x 31cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] B[ECKY] HAMILTON, [Philadelphia], July 6, 1799.

Has been ill for several weeks. [Her sisters] Peggy and Mary [Hamilton], the Misses Fenno, and Becky Redman send regards. Andrew [Hamilton] is in Batavia, [East Indies].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES THOMSON, Carlisle, [Penna.], Aug. 3, 1799.

Was greatly pleased with Henry's reply to his recent communication. Has delivered his message to Miss W[ilson], who asked permission to keep the letter. John [Thomson?] is about to establish himself in Carlisle "as federal Printer," since . . . Kline, after a recent visit to Philadelphia, has shifted in his politics, quotes from *Aurora* and publishes articles favoring [Gubernatorial candidate Thomas] McKean.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES THOMSON, Carlisle, [Penna.], Aug. 5, 1799.

Refuses to believe reports current in Carlisle that Henry has acted dishonorably in connection with a young lady to whom he was deeply attached while there. Offers to be of whatever service he can in clearing up any misunderstanding between them.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] BECKY HAMILTON, "The Woodlands," [near Philadelphia], Sept. 6, 1799.

Is still in the country but hopes [yellow fever] conditions will soon permit her to return to town. Harriet Fenno is visiting her; Marcia . . . is in Newark with Mrs. Meredith. Wishes George [Ridgely] a safe and pleasant voyage. Refers to [Jacob] Jones and his wife, and to the death of Mr. Bellard.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.6cm. x 22.9cm.

MISS A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] B[ECKY] HAMILTON, "The Woodlands," [near Philadelphia], Sept. 22, 1799.

Regrets Mrs. Ann Ridgely's illness and the death of Thomas William Moore. Philadelphia is deserted and desolate; there have been many deaths [of yellow fever] among those who returned too soon. Mentions "Mr. Lyle and my sister Mary [Hamilton]."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 24.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from A[LEXANDER] P. LYON, Carlisle, [Penna.], Nov. 18, 1799.

Continues his defense of President Adams' handling of the French situation. Hopes a man of the same caliber may be chosen at the next election. Major Henderson, with four hundred and fifty men, is stationed at Carlisle, a fact that promises many balls during the winter. Hopes Henry can visit soon. Alludes to his love affair. "Brown Betty Laird" is married to Henry Wilson, the divinity student whom [Thomas] Stockton so disliked. Was disgusted with the Anti-Federalist toasts to Congressman Matthew Lyon.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 31cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from M[OSES] MONTGOMERY, New Castle, [Del.], Dec. 6, [17]99.

Is leaving for Charles Town, S. C., for his health. Has recently seen most of their Lancaster acquaintances. Miss [Elizabeth] Wilson is well, and reported engaged to Henry. Mentions G. Gibson, J. Thomson, Mr. Wilson (merchant of Carlisle), and the marriage of Mr. Wilson (theological student) to Miss Brown.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from A[LEXANDER] P. LYON, Carlisle, [Penna., c. 1800].

Writes in a bantering tone of having warned rivals that Betsy Wilson "was mortgaged," and of the marriages of a number of their acquaintances in recent months. Five Carlisle girls in addition to the recent brides are reported engaged to men from out of town.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 34cm.

MISS [SALLY] BANNING, near Wilmington, Del., from [MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, c. 1800[.

Copies a sentimental poem, *The Nun,* for Sally.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MR. J[OSEPH] SCOTT, [Philadelphia], from HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 2, 1800.

Inquires if *The Modern Geographical Dictionary* has been published according to the terms of the subscription, and if it has, the number of volumes and the price. Wishes his set as soon as possible.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

MISS MARY RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MRS.] WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Phila[delphia], Mar. 24, 1800.

A fragment of a letter which refers to stock to be bought [for Mrs. Ridgely], dividends collected for her, and the state of the account between them.

A. L. S. [incomplete] 1 p. 22.6cm. x 17.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from E. B. CLIMSON, Pittsburgh, Penna., June 11, 1800.

Leaves the following day for Fort De Troyt [sic] by way of Cincinnati and Fort Wayne, a journey of over a thousand miles. Stopped in Carlisle enroute, where he met many of Mr. Ridgely's friends.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from A[LEXANDER] P. LYON, Carlisle, [Penna.], July 1, 1800.

"Our 'far-famed' barrel of dollars," Miss [Betsy] Hughs, is married to Lt. Potts. Mentions "your charming black-eyed Bess [Elizabeth Wilson]."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.8cm. x 34cm.

MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Fells Point, [Md.], July 1, 1800.

Describes his ship, the *Insurgente,* which "has the best accomodations for her officers of any in the navy." Names Captain Fletcher, Lt. Wells and other officers. Likes his shipmate D[yné] Wynkoop. Has chosen . . . Ludlow as his bunkmate. Frequently visits his Aunt [Mrs. Thos.] Dorsey, and finds his cousin Juliet Dorsey attractive. Tells of social engagements with Sam[uel] Ridgely, Sam[uel] Lyon the husband of Miss Broom of Sussex County, Polly Lyon, and [Mr. Richards]. Has heard of Vice President Thomas Jefferson's death. Expects to sail to Hampton Roads or Norfolk before recruiting a full crew of three hundred fifty.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from GEORGE W. RIDGELY, Fells Point, [Md.], July 5, 1800.

His ship [U. S. S. *L'Insurgente*] has been ordered to sail within ten days. Has spent much time at Aunt [Mrs. Thos.] Dorsey's and greatly admires [his cousin] Juliet [Dorsey]. Has become fond of the ladies' company. None of his former shipmates are now with him.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.8cm. x 19.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES THOMSON, Philadelphia, July 14, 1800.

Hopes to visit Carlisle soon. Betsy Hughes is married to Lt. Potts. The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania are about to buy, for a college building, the house erected for the President of the United States. On July 4th Rev. [John] Andrews, "Vice-President of the University of Pennsylvania," and Rev. James Abercrombie of the Philadelphia Academy, both "high-flying federalists,' tried to prevent a reading of the Declaration of Independence at a meeting of the Washington Society in the College Hall. When the lads persisted, these dignitaries absented themselves until the reading was over. Jonathan Meredith also read an oration on *The Origin of American Independence.*

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 23.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from GEORGE W. RIDGELY, off Annapolis, [Md.], July 23, 1800.

His ship is provisioning for a short cruise to Guadaloupe, and will leave soon if a full crew cannot be recruited at Annapolis and Norfolk. Mentions [Midshipman Daniel] Polk, [Mr.]

Campbell who sails in *The President,* and [Mr.] Lewis, a shipmate whose duel with a Baltimore resident roused bitter feeling there.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19.6cm.

[For subsequent correspondence of Henry M. Ridgely, see Vol. II, Chapter VI.]

MISS [SALLY] BANNING, Wilmington, Del., from [MISS] ANN RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 18, 1800.

Tells of an expected visit from Sally Wethered. Mary Brown will soon marry Mr. Hartman of Baltimore and will take her nephew Perry Battell into her new home. George [Ridgely] has sailed for Guadaloupe. Inquires about [Samuel] White's reported courtship of Maria Dickinson, adding facetiously "what shall you, E[liza] Wilson and I do; wear the willow, I suppose . . ." Doubts that the Miss Moore who disappeared after brutal treatment by her father is a suicide. Mentions a death at Mr. Furbee's, Daniel Polk, Lt. Battell, Mrs. Mitchell, the Wethered sisters, Hetty Broom, and Henry [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18cm. x 21.3cm.

MISS [SALLY] BANNING, near Camden, [Del.], c/o MRS. ALSTON, from [MISS] ANN RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 4, 1801.

Has been disappointed in her plans to visit Sally and hopes she can come to Dover. Mentions Major [John] Patten's and Mr. Wilson's funerals, Mrs. Wilson, Betsy Wilson and Hetty Broom. Looks forward to corresponding with her when she reaches "the City.' Wishes letters delivered to Sally and Kitty W[ethered].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 23.6cm.

MISS MARY RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER], Phila[delphia], Jan. 18, 1801.

Discusses financial affairs handled for Mrs. Ridgely and mentions chintz and linen purchased for her. Alludes to a reconciliation between Mr. and Mrs. [Samuel] Blodgett, mentioning as causes the death of a child and the efforts of Judges Yeates and Smith. Names the attendants at William Willing's recent wedding. Mrs. [Robert] Morris has begun visiting again since her husband's release from jail. Maria [Morris?] is about to marry. Charles Morris recently died. Discusses her daughter Fanny's [Erskine] early marriage and motherhood. Criticizes the Hamilton sisters' bizarre mourning.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 32cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from PETER ROBINSON, [Georgetown, Del.], Jan. 28, 1802.

Acknowledges a package containing a gift for Mrs. Robinson, which he promises to deliver at the earliest opportunity.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, "Prospect Hill," near Wilmington, Del., from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY, Dover], May 2, 1802.

The garden "notwithstanding the frost this morning" is lovely. Is considering a visit to Philadelphia; will stop [in Wilmington] for Ann if she goes. Mentions Henry's [Ridgely] dinner engagement and Ann's cats.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.3cm. x 23cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," near Dover, from [MISS] A. E[LIZA] GEORGE, Wilmington, [Del.], June 13, 1802.

Refers to Ann's recent illness. Samuel Wethered is to be married to Miss Yates next Thursday. Miss [Mary] Vining has been ill. Mentions Mary [Ridgely], Mrs. Wethered and her daughters, and other acquaintances.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 23cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from [A. ELIZA] GEORGE, Wilmington, [Del.], Sept. 7, 1802.

Her family is at "lodging at Miss Vining's" while seeking a suitable house. Wishes Mrs. Ridgely would move to "some healthy place." There is a false rumor of yellow fever in Wilmington, with the report that Henry, Seton and Charles Vining are victims. The children have been ill of bilious fever. Thinks T[homas] Cadwalader "very handsome and agreeable." Maria Dickinson, who is now in Trenton, is her "only intimate acquaintance . . . here." Speaks of Mr. [Samuel] White, a trip to the paper mill, and a piece of poetry Ann promised to compose for her.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 26cm.

[MISS] ANN [RIDGELY, Dover], from [MISS] ANN GARNETT, "Bohemia," [Md.], Oct. 1, 1802.

A number of illnesses in the family provide her excuse for delay in writing. Describes Mrs. [Jas. A.] Bayard's infant, the "prettiest" of her three children. Mentions her aunt [Mrs. Richard Bassett] and Miss Mary [Bassett].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," Dover, from [MISS] JANE ROWAN, Philadelphia, Nov. 23, 1802.

Spent the summer at Turner's Lane, Roxborough, Crysum, and White Marsh. Wishes "Eden Hill' was near enough to permit her to visit Ann. Mentions Miss Kitty Beath's intended marriage to Mr. Loper; she will live near Dover. Refers to her own mother and sisters. Acknowledges a gift of preserves and honey.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.9cm.

MISS MARY RIDGELY, Dover. from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Philadelphia], Nov. 29, 1802.

Sends her account for the purchase of earrings for Mary and household goods for Harry [Ridgely], mentioning some bills still outstanding, and the reasons for some of her choices. Writes of Ann and Williamina [Ridgely]. Hopes for a visit from Mary.

A. L. U. 3 pp. 16.4cm. x 20cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] J[ANE] ROWAN, Philadelphia [c. 1803].

The winter has been exceptionally cold, with "two or three and twenty falls of snow" and the Delaware frozen solid enough for sleighs and large wagons to cross. The [former] Ann Stewart seems happy as Mrs. Church.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, from JANET F. [MRS. JACOB] JONES, [Brooklyn], N. Y., Jan. 14, [c. 1803].

Finds Brooklyn very gay, with "Assemblies and private parties." Describes, in affectionate detail, her small daughter Williamina [Jones], who somewhat resembles her [deceased] son William [Jones] whom she so adored. Mentions her husband [Jacob Jones], William Scarsborough, [her sister] "Willy" [Moore] who is ill and neglected by her husband Sturge [Moore], and your Mother['s] . . . old correspondent John Moore.'

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 27cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] S[ALLY] BANNING, Wilm[ington], D[el.], April 15, 1803.

E[liza] Wilson was among many recent visitors. "She is extremely anxious to see Dover, and I fear if Mr. Rodney does not meet with an opportunity of sending her down, she will really get sick, for I never knew one pine and sigh as much as she does." Is hesitant about her own engagement [to Henry Ridgely] because of her extreme youth and "incapacity." Cannot set a date [for her marriage] earlier than Auguest and is reluctant to go to Kent "at the commencement of the unhealthy season." Mentions Matilda Wethered. Hopes Ann comes to Wilmington with [Henry] in May.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.6cm. x 22cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] S[ALLY] BANNING, Wilm[ington], D[el.], June 13, 1803.

Miss James, "our greatest belle," is to be married to Mr. Reeve of Philadelphia, a wealthy, unprepossessing widower with three children. Another wedding is in prospect but "I am apprehensive the gentleman has a mind to give the lady a slip." Is again studying music and drawing. Charity [Alford] is visiting her parents. Has seen Ann's sister [Williamina Ridgely] whose visit to Philadelphia has improved her appearance greatly. Wishes Ann would "partake a little of gayety of the world' and visit Wilmington during the summer.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

[MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, Del.], from [MISS] S[ALLY] A. [WETHERED], "Prospect Hill," [Del., c. June 13, 1803].

Has been busy with music lessons, social activities and "domestick employments.' Wilmington is "now one of the liveliest" places "in the world," with weekly balls and "a number of strange Beaux." Mrs. Dunn just sailed for England. Miss Jeames is to be married; Miss Hollingsworth and Mr. Cheston, of Baltimore, were just married. With [her sister] Kitty [Wethered] she made on amusing blunder over which of the Weems brothers was married. Asks if it is true "Dr. Horsey is addressing your sister Mary [Ridgely]." Mentions Captain and Mrs. Sword, Christiana Anderson, John Dorsey, Dr. Wharton, J. and William Weems, Miss Kensey, Miss Thomas, Williamina Ridgely and Outerbridge [Horsey].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, near Wilmington, Del., from HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, July 4, 1803.

Asks his sister to deliver an enclosed letter and "solicit a speedy answer." Their mother is well and "has not forgotten the duties of a good housewife. . . . Dover affords no news."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS MARY RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. WILLIAMINA CADWALADER, Philadelphia], July 7, 1803.

Is leaving next day for "Rockwell," where [her granddaughter Fanny Erskine] has already been sent. Fears "Willy" [Ridgely] will return home "before the sickly season is over" because of a letter from Ann [Ridgely] that "made her cry for a whole night." Her daughter [Mrs. David Erskine, in England] has been too ill to enjoy her active social life, though she recently attended "an entertainment at Lord Denby's, where the Prince and all the great were assembled." Asks Mrs. Ridgely to send a statement of their account. Tom [Cadwalader] is recovering from a recent illness.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Wilmington, Del., from HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, July 22, 1803.

Refers to Ann's "indisposition." Prefers not to come for her until court adjourns "about the middle of August" but will do so sooner if she wishes. Encloses money for her and asks delivery of another enclosure.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.7cm. x 25.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Wilmington, Del., from HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, July 25, 1803.

Has asked Mr. [Thomas] Macomb to escort Ann home if she wishes to come by stage before court adjourns. Hopes "your Letter will be a double one." The family is well.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.6cm. x 25.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, near Wilmington, Del., from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Dover, July 31, 1803.

Says Dover is extremely dull; "even that agreeable, excentric book worm, [Willard] Hall, says he should be charmed to see a dance in Dover some cool night 'that would be doing the thing up nicely' but this bit of nicity I much fear the poor man won't meet with amongst us." Mentions an attractive "Capt. M. . . .," Alfred Sykes, Mrs. Wilmer, Dr. H[orsey] and others. Asks Ann to trace an untrue rumor [apparently of her engagement]. Inquires about the date of Henry's [Ridgely] approaching marriage. "All the Sussex and New Castle Bar are here." The trial of "the Negro Woman, for murder, comes on . . . Harry [Ridgely] and [Willard] Hall plead for her." Comments on the "busy-tongu'd inhabitants of this place."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, near Wilmington, Del., from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Dover, Aug. 15, 1803.

Begs her sister to get directions from Sally Wethered for making watch chains and to bring home the materials for two. Spent an evening at her mother's with Harry [Ridgely], Mr. [Willard] Hall, and Dr. H[orsey], and afterwards "call[ed] at Meeting but heard no singing." Considers "both Mr. Voreese and Mr. Hoop very homely, but clever." Saw Sally and Charles Goldsborough. Mentions "the Capt[ai]n," Mr. Bradford and Mr. Bayard.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.9cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," near Dover, from [MISS] M[ARTHA] R[OWAN], Philadelphia, Sept. 19, 1803.

Though there is some [yellow fever] near Water Street, she does not believe the Ridgely family need be concerned about "Willy's" [Ridgely] safety. After an eleven-day illness Cornelius Yard has just died of the disease. Was an employee of the same "compting house" where Franks H[amilto]n was in 1798, an "unfortunate" situation for "many a poor young man." Tells of a recent threatening fire in the neighborhood. Hopes to visit Dover.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] H[ETTY] BROOM, Wilmington, [Del.], May 24, 1804.

The Terpsica Society commenced on Tuesday with "fourteen Lady's and six gentlemen" present. Describes a charming new arrival, Mr. Hensley. Has broken with Mr. Sewell. Mentions "Cousin Ann . . . " and Sally [Mrs. Henry Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 21cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," near Dover, from [MISS] SUSAN HAMILTON, Wilmington, [Del.], June 13, 1804.

Brother John [Hamilton] recently arrived from England. Sally and Kitty Wethered are visiting in Maryland; and James and Margaret Lea, near Dover. Expects Ann to visit this summer. Mentions her own parents, brother A[rchibald Hamilton] and Kitty . . . .

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.6cm. x 23cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] JANE ROWAN, Philadelphia, June 22, 1804.

Tells of the marriage of Sarah M . . . Also speaks of Mr. and Mrs. Waln, N. Chapman and J. Head, Mrs. Gore, Mr. and Mrs. Morris and Rebecca, Polly Roberts, Mr. Wells and his daughter, and Mary Kirkwood. Implies that her sister Martha [Rowan] is visiting Ann. Arranged for the delivery of a package.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] HETTY BROOM, Wilmington, [Del.], Sept. 26, 1804.

Wishes Ann might join in her rambles along the Brandywine. Miss Stockton recently married Mr. Strawbridge. Is delighted that "the federal party [is] making converts every hour" after a long period of dormancy in Wilmington. Speaks disparagingly of Jim Tilton and A[lexander] Stuart.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.6cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] S[ALLY] A. WETHERED, New York, Oct., 1804.

Is concerned over "the distressing accident that has befallen your sister W[illy Ridgely]," and is pleased to hear of "the Birth of your Nephew [Charles George Ridgely]." Describes a trip up the Hudson to Albany, then to Ballston Springs and Saratoga. The return journey was slow and uncomfortable.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18cm. x 24.8cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, "Eden Hill," near Dover, from [MISS] SUSAN HAMILTON, Wilmington, [Del.], Oct. 14, 1804.

Inquires about her correspondent's nephew. Hopes she plans a visit during the fall. Mentions the birth of Mrs. Broom's daughter, Hester Driver, Matilda Wethered, Alexander Stuart and "my little pet Alexander . . . " Is delighted at "gaining the Election."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.6cm. x 23cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A. C. WETHERED, "Federal Hill," [Wilmington, Del.], Oct. 18, 1804.

Regrets "Willy's" [Ridgely] accident and "the indisposition of your family . . . We have all had the Ague violently." Mentions her own parents and Matilda [Wethered]. Sally [Wethered] "is delighted with New York."

A. N. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, [readdressed to Wilmington], from [MISS] J[ANE] ROWAN, Philadelphia, Nov. 1, 1804.

Offers sympathy for Ann's recent illness and her sister "Willy's" [Ridgely] accident. Mrs. Willing continues ill. "Sister Nancy" [Weed] has an infant daughter. Includes sketches of "the Spanish Hat" and the "Cinderella Bonnett" with descriptive notes.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18cm. x 22.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] S[ALLY] A. WETHERED, New York, Nov. 4, 1804.

Was glad to hear "Willy" [Ridgely] is recovering. Is delighted with an infant nephew as charming as Ann finds hers. The Delaware election results are pleasing. Hears that "several good demos are about leaving the State," but that [James A.] Bayard's election will be challenged. Speaks of Mrs. [Jacob] Jones' "dreary" prospects, and of her attractive children. Was bored by the play *The Natural Son,* but intends to attend the theatre when [Thomas] Cooper performs. Mentions Uncle Nat Sykes, Christiana Anderson, her own sisters, and Mrs. [Elizabeth, née Loockerman] Miller's approaching marriage to Mr. [Thomas] Bradford.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.6cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. McKEE'S, Wilmington, [Del.], from [MISS] MARTHA R[OWAN], Philadelphia, Nov. 8, 1804.

Extends a pressing invitation to visit Philadelphia. Sends regards to the McKee and Bayard families. Is pleased at [Jas. A.] Bayard's election to the House of Representatives. Mentions the birth of Mrs. Broom's daughter. Is sorry the wig for Sally [Ridgely] was not satisfactory.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, Del., from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 14, 1804.

Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely is finding "allum curd" helpful for her sore eyes. For the trip home the baby must be dressed with linen between his shirt and flannel outer garments. Mrs. [Jacob] Jones "is in wretched spirits." Miss [Abigail] Howell is to marry Mr. [Samuel] Newbold of Phila[delphia]; and Mrs. [Sarah] Mifflin, Mr. [Joseph] Turner of Maryland. Mentions Mary McKee, Miss [Mary] Vining, Betsy [Alston], Kitty Wethered and others. Her [fractured] leg is improving but is still painful.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.9cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, at DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, Del., from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 19, 1804.

Wants Charles George [Ridgely] brought home before his arm becomes sore [from vaccination]. Is concerned about Charles Vining. Believes Aunt [Mrs. Thos.] Dorsey is "the person who is dead.' Their mother refuses permission for Ann to visit Philadelphia. Williamina herself is improving but is still unable to walk.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.6cm. x 24.9cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ANN WETHERED, "Prospect Hill," [near Wilmington, Del.], Dec. 24, 1804.

Enjoyed a pleasant visit in Maryland and found Wilmington "quite gay" on their return. Refers to the death of John Dorsey; also speaks of his parents, sisters Ann and Louisa [Dorsey?] and Captain Sword. Hetty Broom "is dashing away very charmingly in Washington." "Gid" Pearce is soon to be married. Is glad "Willy" [Ridgely] is improving.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] MATILDA WETHERED, "Prospect Hill," [near Wilmington, Del.], Dec. 24, 1804.

Ann Sharpe was recently married to Mr. Gordon. Arch[ibal]d and Susan Hamilton, John and Margaret Lea were attendants. Wilmington has been very dull, but hopes there may be balls later. Mentions Maria Dickinson, Mrs. Strawbridge, Mrs. Vorhees, and Sally [Wethered] who is still in New York.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm.x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] S[ARAH] A. WETHERED, New York, [N. Y.], Dec. 24, [1804].

Mrs. [Jacob] Jones' two children are "promising and pretty." Attended an Assembly where the dancing lasted "til near 3 o'clock," and numerous other social functions. "Got covered with mud" going to St. Paul's Church. Saw *Romeo and Juliet* with Mr. Cooper and Mrs. Johnson in the title roles, but missed *Othello*. Has heard " . . . Caldwell and Kitty Clifton are . . . to be married."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.6cm. x 25.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A. C[ATHERINE] WETHERED, Wilmington, Del., Feb. 19, 1805.

Wilmington was lively while the snow lasted, but it is now very dull. Spent a pleasant evening at [John] Dickinson's, playing "*How do you like it* and many other interesting plays." The Logans were among the guests. Sally [Wethered] is still in New York; Levin [Wethered] is expected soon for a visit. Names various recent callers. Mrs. Reynolds has an infant son. Miss Fossitt is leaving Wilmington.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.9cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ELIZA WILSON, Wilmington, [Del.], Feb. 25, 1805.

Hears Sally [Ridgely] has grown even more beautiful since her marriage. Is glad her infant son is well and an attractive child. Refers to "Uncle and Aunt Read." Had hoped to spend part of the winter in Kent County.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.9cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY, Philadelphia], Mar. 20, 1805.

Has gotten Ann a white shawl, which is expensive but what she wanted, and has ordered her shoes. Was unable to get the buckskin gloves but will try again when she reaches Wilmington. Tom Cadwalader's wife and "little Fan Erskine" are both ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from M[ARY, MRS. DAVID MEADE] RANDOLPH, Brunswick, [N. J.?], June 10, 1805.

Is expecting another child and is much disturbed by the prospect. Plans to return to Virginia somewhat early in the season and hopes to visit Dover on the way. She much preferred the climate of Rhode Island to that "of this place." Inquires for the other members of the Ridgely family and Mrs. [Jacob] Jones and her husband.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MISS WILHELMINA [sic] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] A[NN] SANDS, Brooklyn, N. Y., June 10, 1805.

Gives a detailed account of the death of her sister Jane [Mrs. Jacob Jones], who had been in poor health for some time. Her family had feared "consumption" but Dr. [Edward] Miller and her own physician assured them she needed "nothing but a change of air." She died in her sleep a few days after going to the country to recuperate. Mentions her husband [Jacob Jones, a prisoner in Algeria] who when last heard from was well but had no prospect of release, and their children [Williamina and Richard Jones]. Sends a lock of Jane's hair.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.4cm.

[MISSES WILLIAMINA and MARY] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND], Philadelphia, June 23, 1805.

Her mother [Mrs. Phineas Bond] has been greatly distressed, and particularly wretched at night, since her sister [Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader, with the latter's granddaughter] left for England. Asks Mrs. Ridgely's advice about her treatment. Has herself been in poor health. Refers to Ann's [Ridgely] illness and hopes she will visit them to restore her health.

In an added note to Mary [who is evidently not at home though in the neighborhood of Dover], mentions "Prince," the marriage of Miss Jones to Mr. Fisher, and Harry Clymer. Speaks again of her sister and little Fanny [Erskine].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 22.8cm.

THOMAS CADWALADER, ESQ., Philadelphia, from W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, June 26, 1805.

Writes of Ann's [Ridgely] visit to Wilmington and to Philadelphia with Mrs. [James A.] Bayard. Hears that "your Tom" [Thomas Cadwalader, Jr.] is a handsome and charming little fellow who resembles "his Pappa." Expresses hope for Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader's safe passage to England.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, July 1, 1805.

Had a tiring trip up from Wilmington, but is feeling somewhat improved. Will be glad to go to the country where there is less noise. Describes a Masonic procession in Wilmington where the instrumental music was excellent, "but the singing was tormenting." Cared little for either the orator or the oration. Sleeves in the new dresses are long. Plans to have hers "catacornered, with a drawing a little below the shoulder and another at the wrist." Likes [her cousin] Mr. [Phineas] Bond.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, c/o PHINEAS BOND, ESQ., Philadelphia, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY] and [MRS.] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 9, 1805.

Her mother is gravely concerned over Ann's health. Suggests a brief trip to Yellow Springs or a return to Wilmington. Brother A[braham Ridgely] disapproves of her "laying down in the daytime for more than a few minutes at a time" and recommends "gentle exercise." Henry [Ridgely] has had bilious fever, but his son [Charles George] is well. Mrs. Ridgely's eyes still trouble her. Mentions Mrs. [Sarah[Mifflin, Mrs. Strawbridge, brother N[icholas Ridgely], Mr. [Thomas] Cadwalader and Betsy Warner.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.7cm. x 20cm.

[MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover], from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], Aug. 10, 1805.

Ann's [Ridgely] health shows no improvement and she stubbornly resists following expert medical advice. [Mrs. Phineas Bond] is greatly worried. Thinks one of the family should come up to be with her. Has heard that [Mrs. Cadwalader with little Fanny Erskine] arrived safely in England after a 22-day passage. Expects letters from her shortly.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] MARTHA ROWAN, Philadelphia, Aug. 14, 1805.

Inquires about Ann [Ridgely], and about Jane's [Jones] children. Mentions the marriage of Mrs. [Elizabeth, née Loockerman] Miller, which caused great distress to an [unnamed] doctor whose "heart was never touched before." Sends respects to relatives and neighbors of the Ridgelys, whom she had met when visiting in Dover. Her own sister Bell [Rowan] has been ill.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, c/o P[HINEAS] BOND, ESQ., Chest[t]nut St., Philadelphia, from [MISS MARY RIDGELY], Dover, Aug. 17, 1805.

The latest news of Ann [Ridgely] worries her. Wishes she might help with the nursing, for she feels herself competent and appreciates the care her sister recently took of her. Reassures their mother about affairs at home but begs for a prompt reply to her recent business questions. Discusses the worthless servant Leah. Tells of Polly Bracco, who, having placed her older children, is available if her five-year-old daughter can be accommodated. Refers to a calf, and to a gift of tongues and Cain apples, a variety not grown in Pennsylvania. Writes at length of her "dear Angel" [Charles] George [Ridgely] who daily adds new accomplishments to his repertoire. Took malicious satisfaction in his perfect behavior before Sally Clayton who had said he was "ruined already." Was disgusted with little Betsy Warner, who having come to keep her company, almost frightened the baby into fits by shrieking "on hearing a poor innocent rat in the night." Dr. Horsey, Henry and Sally Ridgely are often with her. Refers to Henry's recent illness and the fatiguing work he is engaged in. Dan[iel] Mifflin, recently meeting a runaway, Thomas . . . , who owed £10 to him and considerable sums to others, seized his "fine new clothes' and remaining money on the spot.

A. L. U. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, c/o P. BOND, Ches[t]nut St., Philadelphia, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Dover, Aug. 23, 1805.

Hopes to hear soon of Ann's [Ridgely] improvement. Urges her mother to answer her business inquiries promptly. Refers to Aunt's [Mrs. Phineas Bond] relief at Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader's safe arrival in England. Asks about Tom Cadwalader, his wife and son, and Fanny Erskine. Is trying to secure James Clark, grandson of Daniel Cox, as farm manager. Tells at length of [Charles George Ridgely] who is fearless, loves to be set on a horse, wants to feed the sheep salt from his hand, shares Ann's [Ridgely] "passion for cats" and frequently feeds [her pet] "Miss Ann." "He is perfection, . . . my dear Idol, my treasure." Gossips about [Mr.] Cowarden who permitted his uncle to stop his marriage to Miss Smack after all preparations had been made. Kent [County] is "perfectly healthy" but many have recently become ill after leaving it. Mr. and Mrs. Bellach and children, the Clayton family and [Willard] Hall are among those who have gone. Comments acidly on Mr. Hall and on the Sykes family, mentioning Mrs. Sykes, her infant daughter Anna Matilda, Dr. [James] Sykes and his "two elder angels" whose departure for Easton, [Maryland] will be cause for neighborhood celebration. Peaches, melons, lima and string beans are unusually fine now.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, c/o P. BOND, Ches[t]nut St., Philadelphia, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Dover, Aug. 30, 1805.

Sends her mother $100.00 obtained for wheat and corn. [Mr.] Mifflins "as usual on such occasions," as soon as the grain was delivered paid a few pence more per bushel for it than the price promised. Cannot get "a hand to manage." Is, however, proud of her own success as a farmer, "but I would as soon be buried alive as content to live on a Farm." Has no appetite "and my coffee in the morning is my living and sustinance for the day.' Hears Dr. . . . Fisher and Sally Loockerman are to be married. Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely and Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] have both been to Dover without coming out to see her. Mentions Miss Bell, Miss [Mary] Brereton and Mrs. Harper. Speaks of her mother's geranium and rose of Oteheite, both flourishing, and of her own roses and pet bird. Dismissed Leah for refusing to milk. Her sister's last letter has made her even more anxious and unhappy than she was. Is hurt that "you seem to think I am enjoying myself in health and spirits. I never expect either again in this life.' Mrs. [Wm.] McKee and [her daughter] Betsy [McKee] have gone home. Ventures to encloses the money in her letter "as we have never yet lost any" though she is somewhat concerned because some of her recent letters have not arrived.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], Sept., 1805.

Hopes her return to the busy life of her own household has helped Mrs. Ridgely recover [from the shock of Ann's death]. Wishes the Ridgely family would move to a more healthful climate. Residents are leaving Philadelphia in fear of the yellow fever, though only "very obscure people" have died of it yet. In New York "some of the principal merchants" have been among the victims.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.5cm. x 24cm.

MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] E[LIZABETH] TRAVIS, [Philadelphia, c. Sept., 1805].

Refers to [Ann Ridgely's] recent death, and to Mrs. Ridgely and Mary [Ridgely]. Appreciates the pickled oysters. Wishes "Willy" could again pay her a long visit and help pass the lonely hours. Mentions the musical ability of [her daughters] Fanny and Betsy [Travis]. Asks for a cure for corns.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 32.5cm.

MRS. [THOMAS] DORSEY, [Elk Ridge, Md.], from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY], Dover, Sept. 13, 1805.

Notifies her aunt of Ann Ridgely's death on August 29th at the home of Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond in Germantown. Believes it was caused by grief at the unknown fate of their brother George. Says her brother Harry agrees to take Mrs.

Dorsey's son as a law student without a fee and that board and lodging in Dover will cost about £40. He regrets that he cannot accommodate him at his house.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] M[ARTHA] ROWAN, Philadelphia, Sept. 13, 1805.

Offers condolence on the death of [Ann Ridgely]. Inquires about the health of Mrs. Ridgely and "Willy." Yellow fever has reappeared in Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, German Town, [Penna.], Sept. 18, 1805.

Is relieved that her brother has left the city, for, though the fever is spreading only slowly, "this is dreadful weather for it." Is anxious about Mrs. Ridgely. Mentions [her own] mother and brother and [her niece], Nan [Travis]. The newspapers name [Jacob] Jones among the released Tripolitan prisoners safely arrived at Norfolk, [Va.].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18cm. x 24cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, Nov. 23, 1805.

Hopes "Willy' is suceeding in keeping up the spirits of her mother and Mary [Ridgely] and suggests that "the little Boy" [Henry's son Charles George Ridgely] will be a great help. Inquires if she received Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader's letter. Would like to keep a pair of scissors she has found that had belonged to Ann [Ridgely]. Lack of a trustworthy servant to leave with her children keeps Mrs. Travis almost constantly at home. Mentions Phebe Rody, a servant. Asks if any of the Ridgely family can use "a frizette" from London, which was too dark for Miss Bond's use.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18cm. x 24cm.

MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] C[HARITY] ALFORD, Wilmington, [Del.], Nov. 26, 1805.

Sends a dress made for "your sister," the figure of which has been much admired. Mentions her own aunt [Mrs. Wm. McKee] and Miss Bassett.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.6cm. x 21.5cm.

MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] M[ARTHA[R[OWAN], Philadelphia, Dec. 29, 1805.

Alludes to [Ann Ridgely's] death, inquires about the other members of the Ridgely family, and comments on the exceptionally warm season. Tells of a sailor cousin who has just returned home after being long given up for lost, and the grave illness of Mr. Welsh.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] M[ATHILDA] DORSEY, Baltimore, Md., Jan. 5, 1806.

Has been disappointed at not hearing from her cousin ["Willy" Ridgely]. Refers to Ann's death. Mentions a wedding where she served as bridesmaid. Sends a piece of the cake "to dream on."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.8cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. [DAVID MEADE] RANDOLPH, [Washington, D. C.], from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY, Dover], Jan. 8, 1806.

Tells of the death of her sister, Ann Ridgely, in Philadelphia at the home of Aunt [Mrs. Phineas] Bond. Thinks her death was due to despair over the unknown fate of their brother [who was lost at sea]. Mrs. [Jacob] Jones died late in May [1805] after she had fallen "a prey to grief occasioned by the captivity of her husband." She left two small children.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 32.4cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Phila[delphia], Jan. 12, 1806.

Encloses a letter from Mrs. Cadwalader, who likes England, though she misses friends and family. Her mother finds it difficult to reconcile herself to her absence. The family would consider taking a twelve-year-old [Negro] boy to be bound to the age of twenty-eight. Mentions [Negro] Hannah, whose "Mammy chose to keep her at home & send her to school" instead of binding her out. Betsy Francis will marry Joshua Fisher "tonight." Sons have been born to Mary Ingersol and Molly Waln.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 23cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, near Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, [Philadelphia], Feb. 15, 1806.

Acknowledges a gift of oysters. Will send some excellent cauliflower seed at the earliest opportunity, and a half-dozen oranges. Alludes to the birth of [Nicholas Ridgely, son of Henry].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS SALLY A. WETHERED, near Wilmington, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] R[IDGELY, Dover], Feb. 25, 1806.

Replies to a letter of condolence, telling something of the circumstances of her sister Ann's death, and of her family's increasing sense of loss. They find some comfort in Ann's flowers, needlework and writing. Would be glad to see members of the Wethered family and regrets her inability to stop at their home when returning from Ann's funeral. [Henry] has another son, Nicholas [Ridgely].

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 32.5cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, Mar. 3, 1806.

Has had no news from England recently. Mentions a friend who is leaving the country soon, the serious illnesses of "poor Edward" and of Peggy Hamilton, and the need for a new servant. Would like to have the son of slaves as he could be bound long enough to make his training worthwhile. Asks her cousin to recommend one "from your State."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 23cm.

MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from M[ARY, MRS. DAVID MEADE] RANDOLPH, Wash[ing]-ton, [D. C.], Mar. 11, 1806.

Expresses her sympathy for the Ridgelys in the death of Ann. Her own seriously impaired health prevented her visiting Dover as she had hoped. Tells of the commotion in the political world over the attack delivered by her cousin, John Randolph, against his own party, to the delight of the Federalists. Describes the Ambassador from the Bey of Tunis. He brought "to my Brother's Lady (the President's [Thos. Jefferson] daughter) several bales of costly presents," which must be sold after his departure because the Constitution forbids their acceptance.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] ANN SANDS, Brooklyn, N. Y., Mar. 27, 1806.

Both of [Jacob] Jones' children are well. Regrets that having two orphans already in her home prevented her taking Jane's [Jones] children, but they board very near and are much of the time with her family. Mr. Jones hopes to sail soon for the East Indies. Refers to Ann's [Ridgely] death.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.5cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, April 13, 1806.

The "great changes that have taken place in England" have raised Thomas Erskine [Fanny Erskine's father-in-law] to the Peerage and given her husband his father's seat in Parliament. Mrs. [Thomas[Erskine died only a few weeks before her husband's elevation, to which she had always looked forward. Mentions Mr. Prince, whom Mary Ridgely received coldly when he visited Dover.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND], Philadelphia, May 24, 1806.

Her family has been ill. Doubts Peggy Hamilton will ever recover. Becky [Hamilton] has been ill and John H[amilton] has gone to the East Indies. Fanny Erskine has an infant daughter Mary. The rumor that her husband, David Erskine, would become Minister to the United States is untrue. Explains why the appointment would not be desirable. Mrs. Smyth died suddenly when apparently convalescent. Mrs. B. Chew is not dead, as reported.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23.3cm.

[MISS] WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, July 12, 1806.

Feels anxious about the Ridgely family. Refers to "the melancholy event that took place at your house." Mentions [her sisters] Mrs. Cadwalader and Betsy [Travis]. Complains of the excessive heat.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Phila[delphia], Aug. 26, 1806.

Tells of the sad experience of Miss Drayton who came from Charles Town, South Carolina, with a brother believed convalescent, who died within a week of arrival, leaving her among strangers. The Bonds have entertained her while she awaited an opportunity to return home.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 30cm. x 25cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND], Philad[elphia,], Oct. 24, [1806].

Has come to the City to open the house for the family's occupancy. Letters for [Mrs. Williamina Cadwalader] should arrive before November 1 to catch the packet for London.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 11cm. x 20cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND], Phila[delphia], Dec. 18, 1806.

Was very busy while [her niece] Fanny [Erskine] and children were visiting. Expects them to spend the summer near Germantown. Mrs. Cadwalader has enjoyed a visit to Scotland, but expects to be in England again soon. [Mrs. Phineas Bond] is seeking an opportunity to send Mrs. Ridgely some oranges.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

E[LIZABETH, MRS. THOMAS] DORSEY, [Baltimore, Md.], from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 8, 1807.

Extends condolence to her aunt on the death of her daughter. Acknowledges gifts of a breast pin and ring received by Mary Ridgely and herself. [Nicholas Dorsey] has arrived safely in Dover.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 20.2cm. x 21.2cm.

MISS WILL[IA]M[INA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] MARGARET BARKER, Pittsburgh, [Penna.], Jan. 20, 1807.

Mr. Barker is sending Mrs. Ridgely some venison, which he hopes arrives in good condition. Pittsburgh is a rapidly growing town, with a good location, satisfactory business facilities, and "a very good society." Many prominent young men have "gone down the River to join the Bur[r] expedition on the Ohio." Her son Thomas Barker is at Princeton and son

William at St. Mary's College. Mentions Dr. Stevenson and family, and her grandsons. Mrs. Collins (née Lowery) is making a trip from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia with an infant daughter. Pities Mrs. Clayton's lonely situation.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, Jan. 24, 1807.

Has been ill with a cold. "The Lawyers" have offered her passage to Washington in either of two stages they have reserved, but she is afraid to attempt the trip in the winter unless by private carriage "well wrapped up in Flannels and Furs'. She regrets being unable to be there with Fanny [Erskine], but her niece and her family will spend the summer near Germantown.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [DR.] A[BRAHAM] RIDGELY, [n. p.], Jan. 29, 1807.

Has heard nothing of the oysters and salmon mentioned in "Willy's" letter. Is better "but still very unwell." Mentions a candlestick sent Mrs. S[ally] R[idgely].

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 20.5cm.

[MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] WILLIAMINA S. E. BERRIEN, Louis Ville, [Ga.], Feb. 10, 1807.

Apologizes for a long silence. Refers to her brother [J. W. Moore], to her aunt [Mrs. Ann Ridgely], and to Ann's [Ridgely] death. Her eldest son is studying law in Savannah. Mentions her daughter Sarah, her other children, [husband] Major Berrien, and their "friend and relation" Parson Weems.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] A[NN] SANDS, Brooklyn, N. Y., Mar. 13, 1807.

The son and daughter of [Jacob and Jane] Jones are "promising fine children" and both are well. Speaks of their father's great affection for them. Hopes the report of his promotion is true, but has not heard it except from "Willy." Mentions Miss . . . Moore, her own mother, and Mrs. Ridgely.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND], Philadelphia, Mar. 22, 1807.

Has taken "Dr. Gillespy's place" for the Erskine family, and will be glad when they leave Washington which "must be but a dreary dwelling." Refers to her mother, brother and sister, the birth of [John Banning Ridgely], the death of Sally Goldsborough's child and of "both Sol and George," and the prevalence of illness in Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.3cm. x 24.4cm.

MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] MARGARET BARKER, Pittsburg, [Penna.], April 14, 1807.

Sends a note by Mr. Barker, who is on the point of leaving for Delaware. Hopes to visit the East herself the following spring, and will then accept Mrs. Ridgely's invitation. Pittsburgh has been gay with balls, concerts and amateur dramatic performances, some of which she thought excellent. The [Ohio] River is now "fil[le]d with boats, some for trade and some with familie's moving." Mentions Mr. and Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Stevenson.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.5cm. x 22.5cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, April 19, 1807.

At the first opportunity she will send some garden seeds. Plans to go to New York soon with [her niece] Fanny [Erskine]. Mentions Georgia relatives, particularly [the late Dr.] James Moore. Refers to "the young Boy" [John B. Ridgely, son of Henry] as being "as great a favorite with you as the other [Charles George Ridgely] is with Mary," but supposes a sister would supplant both, as a "Boy is soon out of reach of a woman's care."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from M[ARY, MRS. THOMAS] C[ADWALADER], Phila[delphia], May 6, 1807.

Hopes the bonnets purchased for Williamina and Mary [Ridgely] were satisfactory, for there was little choice when they were selected. Expresses willingness to be of service to the Ridgely family whenever possible.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23.5cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] W[ILLIAMINA] C[ADWALADER], Michleham, Surrey, [England], June 3, 1807.

Has to date been unable to locate the friend about whom "Willy" inquired, but believes an acquaintance with wide contacts among the Scotch clergy will be able to trace her. Enjoyed a visit from the Listons who have now returned to Scotland.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18.4cm. x 22cm.

MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] SARAH L. BERRIEN, Louis Ville, [Ga.], July 25, 1807.

Writes for her mother [Mrs. Williamina Berrien] who is recovering after the birth of her infant brother James Wemyss Moore [Berrien]. Tells of herself and other brothers and sisters Thomas Moore, Richard M., Ruth L., Julia Marie, Elise and the late Margarett [Berrien]. Her grandmother [widow of Mrs. Ridgely's brother J. W. Moore, Sr.] explains her failure to keep in touch with the Ridgely family. Her mother sends a message, referring to Mrs. [Williamina] Cadwalader and her deceased brother Dr. J. W. Moore.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] MARGARETT BARKER, Pittsburgh, [Penna.], Aug. 14, 1807.

Pittsburgh has had much social activity during the summer, with many "strangers" included in invitations. The season has been excellent for crops, though wet and cool. The Monongahela [River] is in flood at a time when it can usually be forded. Thinks "Willy" would enjoy a visit to the country across the mountains. Still hopes to spend some time in Delaware in the spring. Mentions Mrs. Collins and children, Dr. Stevenson's family, Mr. and Mrs. Woods, A. Laws, Morgan Newell and George Beckum, who was recently drowned "in Caintucky." Sends greetings to numerous Dover friends.

A. L. S. [partially illegible] 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MRS.] A[NN] SANDS, Brooklyn, [N. Y.], Oct. 5, 1807.

Acknowledges a gift to Williamina Jones, [daughter of Jane and Jacob]. Both children are well. [Jacob Jones] is staying with the Sands family. Fears a previous letter miscarried. Appreciates "Willy's" interest in her niece and nephew and is anxious to keep in touch with her. Thinks her mother [Mrs. Thos. Wm. Moore] is failing rapidly.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.8cm. x 23.5cm.

[MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover, from JOSEPH RICHARDSON, Philad[elphi]a, [Oct.] 15, 1807.

Acknowledges an order for spoons and the receipt of a silver tankard. Since he has recently retired, he has transferred the order to James Howell, his successor and former partner, but will himself supervise the work to guarantee satisfactory quality.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

[MISS WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, near Dover], from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY, Dover, ante December, 1807].

Will pay [Mr.] Cummins for the chintz as her sister directs, but cannot do so until morning when "the walking will be froze." Streets are now impassible without boots. Refers to beef for Sally [Ridgely] and to some shoes.

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.5cm. x 21cm.

MISS [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from M. [MRS. THOMAS] C[ADWALADER, Philadelphia], Dec. 3, 1807.

The whole family regrets that the peaches sent to them spoiled enroute. Discusses purchases she has made for "Willy," listing china, a looking glass, andirons, lace, furs, and a coat. Alludes to Mary [Ridgely's recent marriage to Dr. W. W. Morris].

[Memo. on back notes that the dishes described were a gift for Mary R. Morris, and the coat a gift to Williamina's niece, Mary W. Ridgely, daughter of Abraham.]

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23.7cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND, Philadelphia], Feb. 14, 1808.

Wishes "some careful neighbor" to call to take a ring to Dover. Extends her best wishes to Mary [following her marriage to Dr. W. W. Morris]. Is glad the family approve her choice, and urges "Willy" to follow her example but not to settle in Dover. Refers to a match that caused general surprise, Fanny's [Erskine] infant daughter Margaret, her own niece Nan [Travis], and Mary's [Morris] attachment to [Henry's son Charles George Ridgely]. Hopes the baby [John B. Ridgely] is recovering.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

[MISS] WILLY [WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover], from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND, Philadelphia], Mar. 7, 1808.

Writes hastily that she has secured safe transportation for the ring and for Henry's [Ridgely] paper. Refers to a "miraculous escape [of] Mrs. [Henry] Ridgely's mother" [Mrs. Wm. McKee], and to the danger of driving "into a boat."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23cm.

[MRS. MARY MORRIS, Dover], from [DR.] A[BRAHAM] RIDGELY, [Smyrna, Del., ante April, 1808].

Fears that [Mrs. Ann Ridgely's] habitual "delaying and putting off" proper treatment will produce a relapse. Recommends Huxham's Tincture, with 40 drops of "aromatic volatile spirits." The tincture is made from Peruvian bark, orange peel, snake root, saffron and "proof spirits." Mentions Williamina [Ridgely] and Dr. [W. W.] Morris.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.4cm. x 20cm.

MISS WILLY [WILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] R[EBECCA] BOND, Philadelphia, April 10, 1808.

Is grieved to hear of the death of the baby [John B. Ridgely]. Offers her sympathy to his parents, who have been "very unfortunate." Invites "Willy" to spend the summer in Philadelphia. The Bonds plan to stay in town unless yellow fever appears.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

[MISS] WILLY [WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Dover], from [MISS] R[EBECCA] B[OND, Philadelphia], April 23, 1808.

Is sorry Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely is not well. Wishes the family would leave Dover's unhealthy climate. Begs her cousin to reconsider her decision not to visit Philadelphia during the coming summer. Chides Mary [Morris] for not writing since her marriage. The Travis children have measles.

]Note:—This letter was written two days after Williamina's death.]

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 14.7cm.

MRS. MARY R[IDGELY] MORRIS, Dover, from T[HOMAS] C[ADWALADER], Philad[elphi]a, June 28, 1808.

"I enclose two sketches [of a monogram for the silver coffee service] to be freely altered."

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.4cm.

MRS. ABRAHAM RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] MARY WYNKOOP RIDGELY, Lancaster, [Penna.], Aug. 26, [ante 1809].

Writes to her mother from Mrs. Musser's boarding school, telling of the great stones she saw on the ride from Delaware to Lancaster. Asks if she may buy a handsome silver thimble for half a dollar.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

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